

APRIL/MAY/JUNE 2005 • Women's Edition



The Whole Truth

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST, INC.



MASON TEMPLE

CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST
WORLD HEADQUARTERS

O. T. JONES
SECOND SENIOR

*Sanctified Women of the
Church Of God In Christ, Inc.*



The Whole Truth

The Official Magazine of the Church Of God In Christ, Inc.

MISSION

It is the mission of *The Whole Truth* magazine to provide the general constituency of the Church Of God In Christ with a quality publication which will edify, educate, and empower. This will be accomplished through special features which include coverage of religious and news events relevant to the Church Of God In Christ; profiles of COGIC members; and literary contributions by COGIC members.

The Whole Truth shall endeavor to effect greater unity within this denominational body of Christ by communicating the program and message of the leadership of our National Church and by promoting and utilizing the wealth and resources of journalistic talent from among our own constituency.

THE LEGACY CONTINUES: PROCLAIM THE GOOD NEWS

The Whole Truth is the official news source for the more than 5 million members of the Church Of God In Christ, Inc., the nation's premier Holiness-Pentecostal denomination. The historically acclaimed Bishop Charles Harrison Mason founded the Church Of God In Christ in 1897; and since its inception the predominately Black body has impacted all segments of Christendom throughout the world. *The Whole Truth* can trace its existence to the 1900s when the news journal reported on various social and spiritual issues, and the saints have embraced the publication as their official news source from that point in history.

If you are a member in good standing with the Church Of God In Christ, but do not consider yourself a professional writer, or if you are a journalist who meets that same criteria, *The Whole Truth's* editorial staff would like to hear from you. It would be an honor to report the latest newsworthy events concerning your church, district, and jurisdiction. Let your brothers and sisters in the Lord rejoice, praise, and pray with you as they read about achievements, breakthroughs, current events, conventions, home-going celebrations, weddings, etc.

Please be advised that all articles, related resource information, and photos are placed in *The Whole Truth's* archives and will not be returned. Additionally, the editorial staff at *The Whole Truth* reserves the right to reject, edit, and rewrite all submittals.

You may send your articles, news updates, and photos to *The Whole Truth*, Attention: Editor-In-Chief, 2500 Lamar Avenue, Memphis, Tennessee 38114.

dear subscribers,

IT IS INDEED A JOY to present to you this April/May/June 2005 edition of *The Whole Truth*. In keeping with our mission, the stories for this quarter are designed to edify, educate, and empower.

Each quarter this historic publication has a special focus or theme, in providing news coverage relevant to the Church Of God In Christ, Inc. In this issue, *The Whole Truth* salutes the International Women's Department. The theme, *Those Sanctified Women of the Church Of God In Christ*, was inspired by the latest work of Evangelist Glenda Williams-Goodson, *Bishop C.H. Mason*, and *Those Sanctified Women!* (Please see the profile on Evangelist Williams-Goodson in *The Whole Truth's* July–December 2004 issue).

Our illustrious leader, Presiding Bishop G.E. Patterson, has placed the Department of Women in the extremely capable hands of Mother Willie Mae Rivers. This gracious woman of God serves as an ideal role model for any woman who has a genuine desire to live Holy and be involved in effective ministry.

Since the initial founding in 1897 in Lexington, Mississippi, and its re-establishment in Memphis by founder Bishop C.H. Mason in 1907, the Church Of God In Christ has earned the distinction for being the world's preeminent Holiness-Pentecostal denomination. Yes, Founding Father Bishop C.H. Mason bequeathed to the Church Of God In Christ a spiritual legacy that is profound. In fact, he provided a biblical approach to accomplish the directive of Jude 3: *Contend for the faith which was once delivered to the saints*. Today, people from every segment of our global society are embracing Bishop Mason's biblical concepts on experiencing a spirit-filled life.

Starting with the first organizational efforts, *Those Sanctified Women of the Church Of God In Christ* have played a vital role in carrying out the denomination's mission to reach the world for Jesus Christ. They embody Proverbs 14:1-a: *Every wise woman buildeth her house*. Whether it's through the Bible Band, Sewing Circle, Evangelism, mentoring projects, or various other areas of ministry, our sisters are indeed effective witnesses and vessels of honor for the Lord.

God bless the radiant women of the Church Of God In Christ as they prepare for the 55th Women's International Convention/Crusade May 30–June 4, in Atlanta, Georgia. Additionally, we give a well-deserved *Whole Truth* salute to Mother Rivers, her cabinet and staff. Your exemplary leadership for the precious sanctified ladies of our Church is very much appreciated.

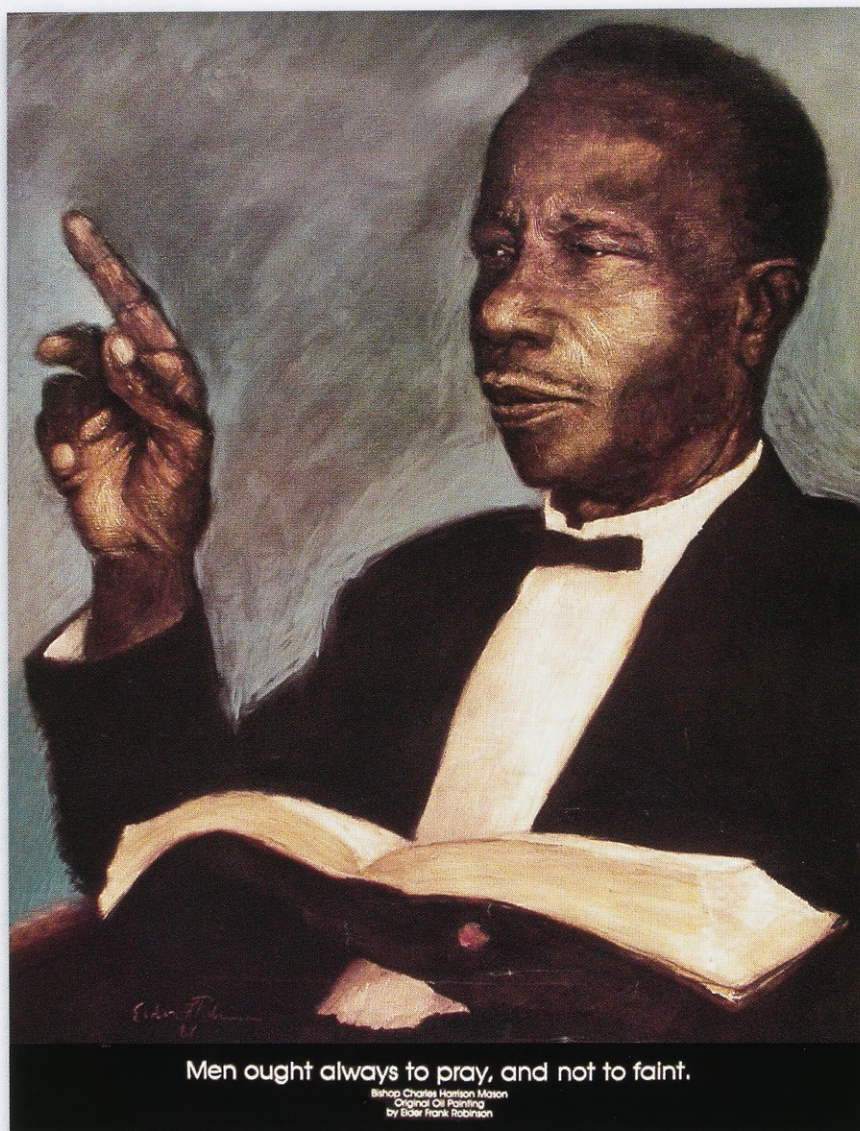
In His Service,

Elder Calvin L. Burns

Elder Calvin L. Burns

Editor-In-Chief, *The Whole Truth*





This brilliant original oil painting of our founding father, Bishop C.H. Mason, depicted in a teaching presentation, is the work of Elder Frank Robinson. It is entitled, "Men Ought to Always Pray, and Not to Faint."

To obtain a copy of this print, call (901) 744-0477; ask for Dr. David Hall.

The Whole Truth

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ABOUT THE COVER: *The Sanctified Women of the Church Of God In Christ, Inc.*—pictured left to right, from top left: Mother Lizzie Robinson, First General Supervisor, 1911–1945; Mother Lillian B. Coffey, Second Supervisor, 1945–1964, and established the International Women's Convention in 1951; Mother Annie L. Bailey, Third Supervisor, 1964–1975; Mother Mattie McGlothen, Fourth Supervisor, 1976–1994; Mother Emma Frances Crouch, Fifth Supervisor, 1994–1997; and Mother Willie Mae Rivers, International Supervisor of Women, 1997–Present.

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Build Upon Our Most Holy Faith

by Glenda Williams-Goodson



THERE ARE DEFINING MOMENTS in the life of both individuals and organizations. The quadrennial service to install officers of the Church Of God In Christ was one such moment. The freshman administration of Presiding Bishop Gilbert Earl Patterson was a tremendous success—and the air was filled with a renewed sense of commitment to the vision of our founding fathers and mothers.

On April 4, the beautiful Temple of Deliverance Church Of God In Christ was the

setting for one of the holiest times in the life of the Church Of God In Christ—the installation of officers approved and elected by the general church, as well as those appointed by the Presiding Bishop. Beginning with the colorful procession of General Officers, General Board members, and the Chief Apostle of the Church Of God In Christ, Bishop Gilbert Earl Patterson, the sacredness of the moment caused a reverent silence, before thousands joined the choir and softly sang, “Holy, Holy, Holy.”

Dr. Jack Whitehead, Church Of God In Christ YPWW Editor and longtime National Worker, served as Quadrennial Messenger. After being introduced and given the charge to preach by Supt. Derrick Hutchins, Chairman of



Presiding Bishop G.E. Patterson, left, receives The Staff of the Chief Apostle from the Chairman of the General Assembly, Bishop J.O. Patterson Jr., after taking the oath of office during the Quadrennial Installation Service.

the General Council of Pastors and Elders, Dr. Whitehead, pastor of the Whitehead Memorial Church of God in Christ and the Saints City Church of God in Christ, delivered a thought-provoking and wonderful sermon which he entitled *The Watchman, The Warning, and the Storm*. Occasionally reminiscent of an Old Testament prophet, Dr. Whitehead used warning, humor, and facts discovered through meticulous research to interweave the tragedy of the recent tsunami with spiritual storms caused by non-adherence to the warning of the watchman.

He appealed to the Church Of God In Christ to heed the warning of other churches which God had formerly raised up as lights that now ordain homosexuals as leaders. Stating that the life of his mentor, the late Bishop Ithiel Clemons, was dedicated to reminding us not to forget our COGIC roots; he urged leaders to go back and pick up auxiliaries such as the Sunshine Band and Purity Class to grow leaders today who will hold to holiness standards. He advocated strongly for the constituency to rise above difference and execute the vision of Presiding Bishop Patterson through consistent financial support.

After the rousing message, the elected officers, including the General Board members, were charged by General Assembly Chairman Bishop J.O. Patterson Jr., who was assisted by General Secretary Elder A.Z. Hall. Bishop J.O. Patterson then read the charge to those individuals appointed by his administration, including General Supervisor Mother Willie Mae Rivers, of whom he stated, “I have enjoyed working with you, Mother Rivers, who have your own auxiliaries ... these past four years and look forward to continuing.”

the presidium

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Elder James Hunt Sr.
Vice-Chairman of
the General Assembly

The Judiciary Branch

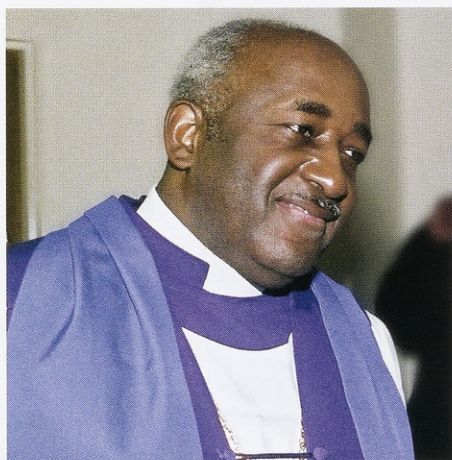
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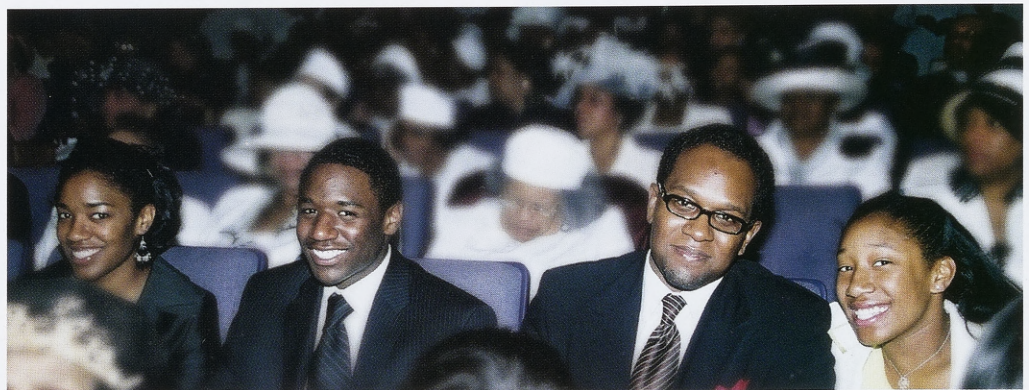
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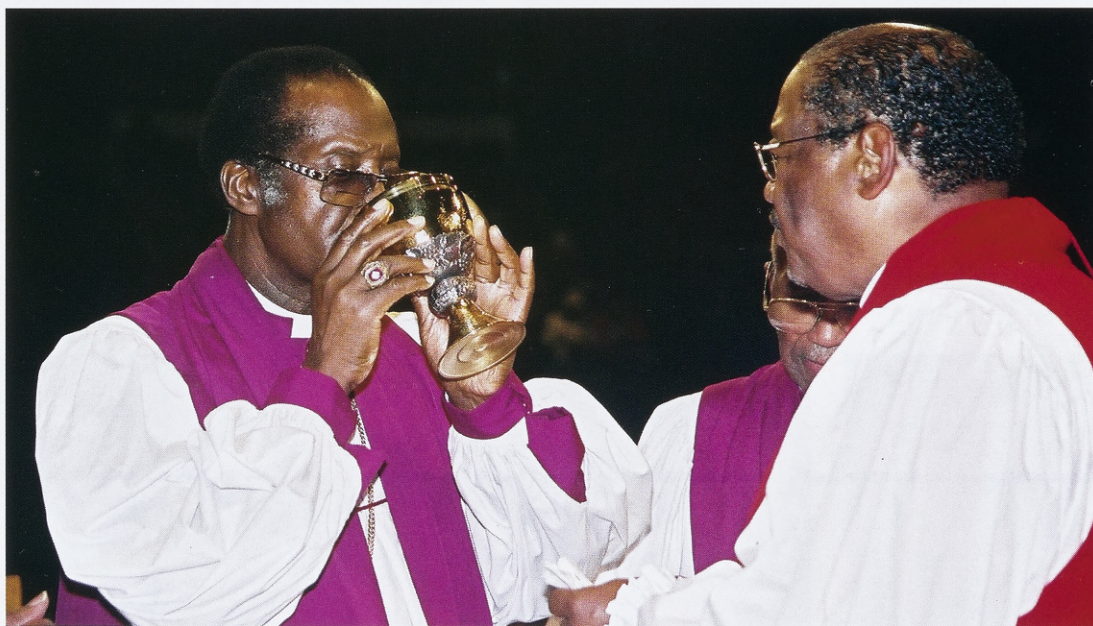
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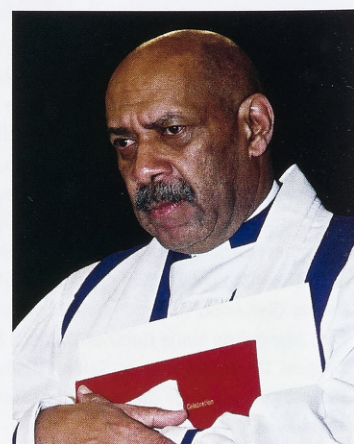
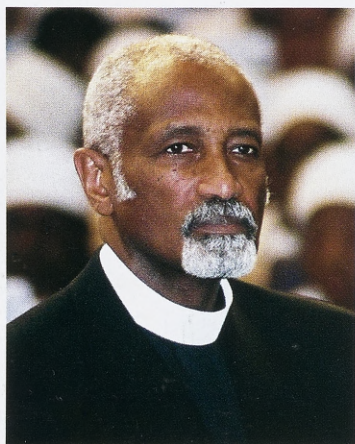


Left to right, from top left: Presiding Bishop G.E. Patterson enters the sanctuary of Temple of Deliverance for the Quadrennial Installation Service; The Presidium receives *The Charge* from Quadrennial Messenger Dr. Jack Whitehead; Supervisor Lee Ella Smith, Evangelist Mary Hawkins, and other members of the Presiding Bishop's family; Supt. Drew Sheard and wife Karen Clark-Sheard; Bishop Glenwood Young, Prelate New York Western 2nd; Evangelists Maria Gardner-Thomas, Joyce Rodgers, Dr. Goldie F. Wells, Sarah Gooch, and Frances Kelley; Family members of national appointees.





Above, top: Presiding Bishop G.E. Patterson prays before serving Holy Communion; above, lower: Chief Officiant of Communion serves Bishop P.A. Brooks.
Below, from left: Leaders reflect on the task ahead—Elder Thomas Jackson, Mother Willie Mae Rivers, Supervisor Vanessa Gatlin, and Chief Operating Officer Bishop Jerry Maynard.





This page, clockwise from upper left: The Presiding Bishop exhibits The Staff of Chief Apostle; Auxiliary Bishop Darrell Hines, Wisconsin, and Bishop Fredrick Kelley, Malawi, Central Africa; Supt. Derrick Hutchins, Chairman of the General Council of Pastors and Elders; Bishop and Mother Walter Plummer, Connecticut 3rd, New England; The mass choir sings *Holy, Holy, Holy!*; The Presidium meditates on God's goodness.



Presiding Bishop G.E. Patterson

by Calvin L. Burns

MORE THAN 1,500 CELEBRANTS convened at Cook Convention Center in Memphis Thursday evening, April 7, to observe the Inauguration Dinner of The Most Reverend G.E. Patterson, Presiding Bishop of the Church Of God In Christ. The black tie affair set the stage for what was an elegant evening of providing due recognition and honor



Presiding Bishop G.E. Patterson, left, and First Lady Louise Patterson, right, chat with Rep. Lois DeBerry, Speaker Pro-Tem of the Tennessee House of Representatives.

for Presiding Bishop Patterson, who is one of the most highly respected leaders in Christendom. Tennessee Governor Phil Bredeesen was on hand, along with a number of other dignitaries, to salute the Chief Apostle of the fifth largest denomination in the nation.

In his remarks, Gov. Bredeesen said he was pleased to participate in an evening honoring Bishop G.E. Patterson as he embarked on his second term as the Presiding Bishop of the Church Of God In Christ. "Just looking at all the familiar faces across this room, I know everyone here remembers their first encounter with Bishop Patterson," Gov. Bredeesen said. "Mine was more than a decade ago, during the 1994 Governor's race. Over the years, we've become

friends. Today, he's someone I often seek out and depend upon for the unvarnished truth."

Gov. Bredeesen added that Presiding Bishop G.E. Patterson is a person who gives godly and candid advice to his friends and constituency alike. "He doesn't worry about what you want to hear ... he doesn't sugarcoat anything ... he

The Presidium with the Governor of Tennessee, from left: Bishop P.A. Brooks, 1st Asst Presiding Bishop C.E. Blake Sr., Bishop G. McKinney, Bishop L. Anderson, Asst. Sec. Bishop Roy Winbush, Sec. Bishop W.W. Hamilton, Presiding Bishop G.E. Patterson, Gov. Phil Bredeesen, 2nd Ass. Presiding Bishop J.N. Haynes, Bishop C.D. Owens, Bishop N. Wells, Bishop S.L. Green, and Bishop Jerry Macklin.



just tells it like he sees it," the Governor said. "That candidness and Bishop Patterson's friendship have been a blessing for me over the years, and most particularly during these last two as Governor. That's why I asked to be here and to speak with all of you tonight," he continued.

Yes, the Governor's keen observations echoed the sentiments of the vast audience and millions of others throughout the world. They, too, value Presiding Bishop G.E. Patterson's commitment to proclaiming the unadulterated Gospel of Jesus Christ, while emphatically declaring God's call to holiness. His focus on preaching a universal gospel that transcends racial and denominational barriers has earned the Church Of God In Christ a higher degree of visibility and credibility on the global front during his tenure as Presiding Bishop.

Gov. Bredeesen addressed Bishop G.E. Patterson's exemplary leadership as head of the Church Of God In Christ by noting: "With this gathering, we not only celebrate Bishop Patterson's leadership and ministry, we also celebrate the history and the future of this proud Church. In Tennessee, we're blessed with a citizenry of faith ... blessed with a wide variety of religious institutions that each day work hand-in-hand with their communities to improve the lives of everyone they encounter. There's no better example of that dedication than the congregations that make up the Church Of God In Christ. And I know the great work each of you do in your communities ... in your cities, states, and countries ... That work is due in large part to the visionary leadership of the man we're honoring here tonight."

At this point, Gov. Bredeesen noted the tremendous impact that Presiding Bishop G.E. Patterson's national television ministry is having on humankind. "Each day at his home here in Memphis ... and throughout this country and the world ... Bishop Patterson's message of faith is heard—it's heard on radios in small town America, on televisions in cities big and small, and through the pastors across the world who serve him," Gov. Bredeesen said. "I know I speak for everyone here tonight when I say, Bishop Patterson, we thank you for your leadership, for your service, and for your faith and your love," the Governor concluded.

Governor Bredeesen's observations did indeed capture the essence of this elegant evening. This was a time to say, "Congratulations, Presiding Bishop G.E. Patterson, for being elected for a second term. God bless you for a job well-done during your first four years." Yes, due to the anointed, insightful, and innovative leadership of this humble man of God, people from all walks of life will be able to dine on the Word of God through cutting-edge ministry offered by the Church Of God In Christ—not only in the 21st century but throughout the existence of humankind.



Presiding Bishop G.E. Patterson with Governor Phil Bredeesen.

"Today, [Presiding Bishop G.E. Patterson] is someone I often seek out and depend upon for the unvarnished truth ... candidness and friendship have been a blessing for me over the years."

—Tennessee Governor Phil Bredeesen

A WHOLE TRUTH SPOTLIGHT: THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

To ensure that The Whole Truth fully addresses its role as the official news source of The Church Of God In Christ, Inc., news features or spotlights are often given. These articles are designed to give the readers an accurate update and general news concerning every segment of our Church.

In the following articles, Elder James W. Hunt Sr., Vice Chairman of the General Assembly, gives a summary of the 2005 April Call Meeting of the General Assembly, and shares some important information concerning Parliamentary Procedure. The Whole Truth's staff is very appreciative to Vice-Chairman Hunt for helping this historic publication live up to its commitment to effectively communicate the vision and message of the leadership of our National Church.

April 19, 2005

Church Of God In Christ, Inc.
Mason Temple, Memphis, Tennessee
General Assembly, April 2005 Session, April 5-7, 2005
Bishop J.O. Patterson Jr., Chairman
Elder James W. Hunt Sr., Vice-Chairman

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! May God continue to bless our Presiding Bishop, Bishop G.E. Patterson and the entire General Board as they begin their new term of office. God has truly blessed our leaders and our Church.

We thank God for our Chairman, Bishop J.O. Patterson Jr. We are praying for a speedy recovery from his surgery.

We were not able to accomplish as much as Chairman Patterson would have liked because the delegates did not bring their copies of the proposed Amendments with them to the General Assembly. As a result we were delayed in continuing that portion of our agenda.

It is important for each delegate to the General Assembly to be familiar with the proposed amendments and the effect each change will have on our Church. We will possibly make some substantial changes to our Constitution as a result of the proposed Amendments from the Constitutional Convention that was held in St. Louis, Missouri.

Committees play a very important role in handling the business of the General Assembly. The committees of the General Assembly are in place for the benefit of the delegates. Committees do the necessary work to expedite, explain and clarify information so that the average delegate has the intelligence to vote on the items that come before the assembly.

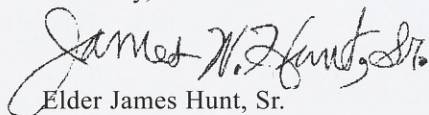
One of the highlights of our session was the testimony of Pastor Philip R. Jackson who gave a very moving testimony on Wednesday before we put the Chairman up to handle the business concerning the amendments to our Constitution.

Pastor Philip R. Jackson is planning to have a booth at the Women's Convention in Atlanta, Georgia, to share his testimony which is on Cassette, CD and VHS. To get in touch with him you may contact:

Seth Temple Church Of God In Christ
9841 Dundee Street, Detroit, Michigan 48204
Phone (313) 931-1315

Thank God for our Chairman, Bishop J.O. Patterson Jr. I am asking each of you to continue to keep him in your prayers. May God bless you!

Sincerely,



Elder James Hunt, Sr.
Vice-Chairman, General Assembly
Church Of God In Christ, Inc.

Defining Parliamentary Procedures

Elder James W. Hunt Sr. graciously enlightens the Saints with information to guide and instruct as new generations become participating members.

RULES OF AN ASSEMBLY OR ORGANIZATION

- An organization requires rules to establish its basic structure and manner of operation. In addition, a need for formal adopted rules of procedure arises in any assembly, principally because there may be disagreements or a lack of understanding as to what parliamentary law regarding points that can affect the outcome of important issues.
- Experience has shown that some rules of an organization should be made more difficult to change, or to suspend than others. Using this principle, the rules which an established organization may have are commonly divided into classes, some of which are needed by every organization, while others may be required only as conditions warrant. Within this framework under the general parliamentary law, an assembly or organization is free to adopt any rules it may wish provided that in the procedure of adopting them, it conforms to parliamentary law or its own existing rules. The only limitations upon the rules that such a body can thus adopt might arise from rules of a parent body (as rules of a national organization restricting its states or local branches) or from national, state, or local law affecting that particular type of organization.

The various kinds of rules which an assembly may formally adopt include the following:

1. Corporate Charter
2. Constitution and/or Bylaws
3. Rules of Order
4. Standing Rules

1. CORPORATE CHARTER

- The Corporate Charter is a legal instrument which sets forth the name and object of the organization and other information needed for incorporating the organization under the laws of the particular state, or under federal law in the case of a few special types of organizations. Incorporation is necessary or may be advisable, depending upon the different laws of each state, if an organization is to hold property, inherit a legacy, make legally binding contracts, hire employees, be in a position to sue or be sued as an organization, or the like. A principal advantage in incorporating an organization is that officers and members are protected from personal liability under obligations that may be incurred by the organization. Apart from this considera-

tion, in general, an organization need not be incorporated unless incorporation is dictated by law relating to the organization's contemplated activities.

- With incorporated organizations, the Corporate Charter supersedes all its other rules.
 - a. None of which can legally contain anything in conflict with the charter
 - b. Nothing in the charter can be suspended by the organization itself unless the charter so provides
- For those reasons, a corporate charter generally should contain only what is necessary to obtain it, and to establish the desired status of the organization under law leaving as much as possible to Constitution/and, or to lower ranking rules.

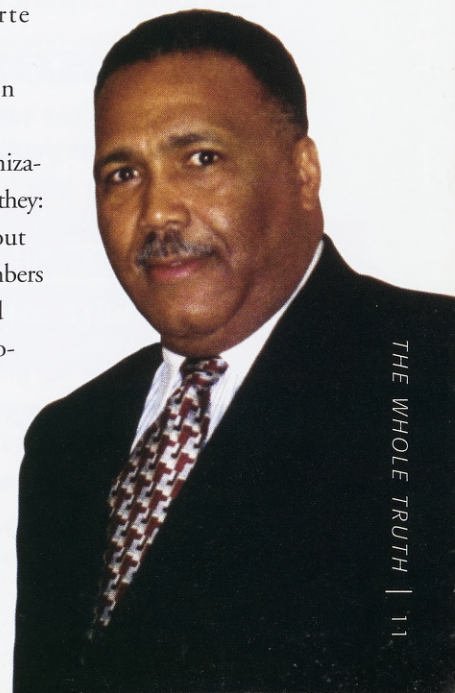
2. CONSTITUTION AND/OR BYLAWS

- In general, the Constitution and/or Bylaws of an organization are the documents which contain its own rules relating principally to itself as an organization, rather than Parliamentary Procedures that it follows. In the ordinary case, it is now the recommended practice that all of an organization's rules of this kind be combined into a single instrument, usually called the Bylaws, although in some organizations it is called the Constitution, or called the Constitution and Bylaws, even when it is one document.

Constitution and/or Bylaws should have the following.

1. Define the primary characteristics of the organization in such a way that the Constitution and/or Bylaws serve as the fundamental instrument conforming to the Corporate Charter.
2. Prescribes how the organization functions.
3. Includes all rules that the organization considers so important that they:
 - a. Cannot be changed without previous notice to the members and the vote of a specified large majority, such as two-thirds (2/3) vote.
 - b. Cannot be suspended.

While the number of Articles in the Bylaws will be determined by the size and activities of the organization, the general nature



It is common practice to divide the basic rules of an organization into two documents, in order that one of them—the Constitution—might be more difficult to amend than the other In such cases, the Constitution would generally contain the most essential provisions ... leaving additional details to the Bylaws, and would prescribe the procedure for amending the Constitution.

of the subjects covered will be indicated by the following lists of articles, typical of those found in the Bylaws of the average incorporated organization:

1. Name of the organization
 2. Its Object
 3. Members
 4. Officers
 5. Meetings
 6. Executive Board
 7. Other Boards and Committees
 8. Parliamentary Authority
 9. Amendments (Prescribing the procedure for making changes in the bylaws.)
- It is common practice to divide the basic rules of an organization into two documents, in order that one of them—the Constitution—might be more difficult to amend than the other, to which the name Bylaws was applied. In such cases, the Constitution would generally contain the most essential provisions relating to the first five items listed in the preceding paragraph (leaving additional details to the Bylaws), and would prescribe the procedure for amending the Constitution.
 - Such an arrangement may be found in cases where a national, state, or local law applying to particular types of organizations requiring a Constitution separate from the Bylaws. In incorporated organization there generally should not be a Constitution separate from the Bylaws, since in such a case the Constitution would duplicate much of the Corporate Charter.
 - Except for the Corporate Charter in an incorporated organization, the Constitution and/or Bylaws (as the single, combination-type instrument) comprise the highest body of rules in organizations. Such an instrument supersedes all other rules of the assembly, except the Corporate Charter, if there is one. In organizations that have both a Constitution and Bylaws as separate documents, however, the Constitution is the higher of the two bodies of rules and supersedes the Bylaws.
 - The Bylaws, by their nature, necessarily contain whatever limitations are placed on the powers of the assembly of an organization (that is, the members attending a particular meeting) with respect to the assembly as a whole.
 - Similarly, the provisions of the Bylaws have a direct bearing on the rights of members within the organization, whether

present or absent from the assembly. It is a good policy for every member joining (becoming a member of) the organization to be given a copy of the Constitution and/or Bylaws, printed together with the Corporate Charter, if there is one, and any special Rules of Order or Standing Rules that the assembly may have adopted. A member should become familiar with the contents of these rules if he looks forward to full participation in the assembly's affairs.

3. RULES OF ORDER

- The term Rules of Order refers to written rules of parliamentary procedure formally adopted by an assembly or organization. Such rules relate to the orderly transaction of business in meetings and to the duties of officers in that connection. The object of Rules of Order is to facilitate the smooth functioning of the assembly and to provide a firm basis for resolving questions of procedure that may arise.
- In contrast to Constitution and/or Bylaws, Rules of Order derive their proper substance largely from the general nature of the parliamentary process rather than from the circumstances of a particular assembly. Consequently, although the tone of application of Rules of Order may vary, there is little reason why most of these rules themselves should not be the same in all ordinary organizations and should conform closely to common parliamentary procedures.

4. STANDING RULES

- Standing Rules are rules which relate to the details of the administration of an organization rather than to Parliamentary Procedures, and which can be adopted or changed (amended) upon the same conditions as any ordinary act of the organization. An example of such a rule might be one's setting the hour at which the meetings are to begin which would be at the convenience of the assembly; however if there is a need to change the time you would not need a two thirds majority vote to make the change, but rather a simple majority.

I pray that this information will be helpful to all and especially to the delegates as we move to amend our Constitution and/or Bylaws in the upcoming sessions in the General Assembly. May God richly bless you.



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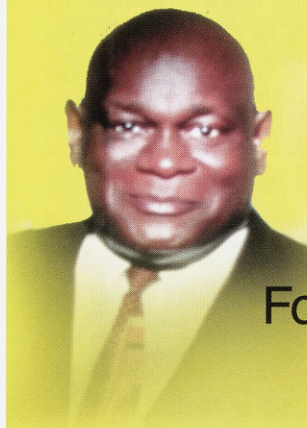
Massage a generous amount into temple and neck until pain completely stops.

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General Assembly Convenes for 2005 April Call Meeting

Delegates Vote on Re-write of Proposed Amendments to Constitution

By Calvin L. Burns

MORE THAN 1,200 DELEGATES to the 2005 April Call Meeting of the Church Of God In Christ, Inc.'s General Assembly met at Historic Mason Temple Tuesday, April 5, and Wednesday, April 6. This was the first meeting of the year for the General Assembly, which is the Legislative Branch of our Church. Bishop J.O. Patterson Jr., the distinguished Chairman of COGIC's law-making body, prepared a seven-item Agenda for the April Meeting. The most crucial order of business, however, was clearly item IV.—The Report of the Constitutional Convention. The report from this prominent committee, known as the Blue Ribbon Commission, was designed to pave the way for the First Reading of the proposed amendments to our Constitution approved at the Constitutional Convention held September, 16–18, 2003, in St. Louis, Missouri. There is a Three Readings stipulation in the Rules governing the General Assembly and the Constitution which states that three readings of a proposed amendment is mandatory before a vote can be taken for ratification. Upon further review, a motion was made that called for the phrasing of the document presented by the Blue Ribbon Commission to be sent back to Committee for rewriting. That motion prevailed. This will allow additional proposed amendments submitted by the General Board to be included in the Blue Ribbon Commission's document.

Presiding Bishop G.E. Patterson, our illustrious leader, and the remaining members of the Presidium, requested at the November 2003 session of the General Assembly that the delegates be given ample time to study the 40-page document, which is a compilation of resolutions and proposed amendments from the 10 components of COGIC that are currently represented in our Constitution. Additionally, Chairman Bishop J.O. Patterson Jr. appointed Bishop John Henry Sheard to head the Blue Ribbon Commission. Bishop Sheard is the Prelate of the First Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction of Southwest Michigan. He also serves as Chairman of the National Board of Bishops and Secretary of the National Judiciary Board. Bishop Earl Wright Sr., Prelate of the Second Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction of Southwest Michigan, was named Vice-Chairman of the Commission.

These two exceptional leaders collaborated with adept Commissioners as they moved forward to the charge of making all the revisions of the proposed amendments to the Constitution to ensure that the Reading process could begin as soon as possible. The Commissioners are representatives of the following 10

components that are represented in the Constitution: General Board; Board of Bishops, Pastors, and Elders; Department of Women; Auxiliaries; General Assembly; Education; Board of Trustees; Judiciary Board; and Articles of Religion.

The convening of the 2005 April Call Meeting provided the platform for the Executive and Legislative branches to work as a

cohesive unit for the common goal of passing laws that would ensure the continuance of the rich legacy of our Church. The unfolding of events at the 2003 Constitutional Convention made it clear that the Presidium had concerns that some proposed amendments would hinder the Executive Branch in its duties of overseeing the day-to-day operations of COGIC. Meanwhile, the collective focus of the General Assembly is clearly on safe-guarding the checks and balances system that our current Constitution provides for the functioning of the denomination's three

branches of government.

One of the Presidium's concerns centers on the need for the Presiding Bishop to take immediate action against a pastor who is initially accused by a member and later found guilty of sexual misconduct in civil court. The Presiding Bishop explained that such steps are needed to protect the National Church from being involved in any pending lawsuits. Therefore, it came as no surprise as the Blue Ribbon Commission read from the section of the proposed amendments dealing with "The Trial of a Pastor," that Chief Counsel Judge Enoch Perry asked for and received permission from the Chairman to address Bishop Sheard and the assemblage. Later, *The Whole Truth* will review the impact of Judge Perry's presentation. Meanwhile, the following is an overview of the entire session:

At 8:58 a.m., Tuesday, April 5, Supt. Amos F. Kemper III called the delegates who were present to order for a time of prayer and meditation. Supt. Kemper serves as pastor of St. Samuel Cathedral COGIC in New York, N.Y. He is also a member of the International Prayer Team, which is headed by Evangelist Frances Kelley. He opened with a medley of *Jesus Paid It All* and *Bless the Lord Oh My Soul*. That was followed with a full 50 minutes of anointed and fervent prayer. Supt. Kemper then delivered an inspirational message entitled *Succeed In Doing the Will of the Lord*. His lesson scripture was taken from II Timothy 3: 1–7; 10–14.

Elder James Hunt Sr., the stately Vice-Chairman of the General Assembly, called the body to order at 10:00 a.m. Elder Hunt is the pastor of Ebenezer Church Of God In Christ in



Bishop J.O. Patterson Jr.

The convening of the 2005 April Call Meeting provided the platform for the Executive and Legislative branches to work as a cohesive unit for the common goal of passing laws that would ensure the continuance of the rich legacy of our Church.

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He is fondly known by his constituents as "The Elder from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania," and is highly regarded both as a defender of the doctrine of our Church and as a noted historian.

Vice-Chairman Hunt asked the General Assembly's Chaplain, Elder Samuel Fluker, to come forward and lead the assemblage in a devotional period. This uplifting segment was a time of anointed prayer, inspirational singing, and inspiring testimonies.

Following the devotional, the Vice-Chairman asked Bishop Charles E. Brown, Chairman of the Credentials Committee, to proceed with the Certification of the House. It had been reported earlier that some of the delegates had not been issued a blue certification certificate for registration, and this was causing a delay in registration, and it was learned that some of the Jurisdictional Secretaries were not aware that a certificate of registration was needed for the April Call Meeting. The Vice-Chairman consulted with Chairman Patterson regarding this challenge, and the two exemplary leaders were able to devise an emergency plan that allowed all qualified delegates to register.

At 11:10 a.m. Bishop Brown advised the Vice-Chairman that the House had been certified to do business with 950 delegates. Vice-Chairman Hunt acknowledged the certification, and advised Chairman Patterson that the House was ready for business with 950 delegates. Previously, the articulate Vice-Chairman had announced the arrival of Presiding Bishop G.E. Patterson and the General Board and was now ready to present Chairman Bishop J.O. Patterson Jr.

The Chairman called for Elder Thomas Holsey, Chairman of the Rules Committee, to come forward with the members of his committee for the Presentation of the Rules. Following, there was discussion concerning Rule 4. The Quorum: The House may conduct business without a quorum.

After several minutes of hearing delegates express their concerns that the business of the General Assembly was too crucial to conduct without a quorum, the Chairman advised the assembly that he concurred with those sentiments. He asked if there was a motion to require that, "The House would not conduct business without a quorum of 51 percent of the certified delegates for the current session." The motion was made and seconded. It easily prevailed.

The Chairman then requested that General Secretary Elder A.Z. Hall come forward to read the minutes from the November 2004 Session of the General Assembly. At this point, Elder Joel Lyles from the General Secretary's Office came forward and read the minutes.

Following the report from the General Secretary's Office, the

next item on the Agenda called for the report from the Presiding Bishop and the General Board. General Assembly Chairman Bishop J.O. Patterson Jr. advised the delegation that Presiding Bishop G.E. Patterson and the General Board would make their report at the evening segment of the Assembly.

The Chairman then emphasized the significant role that the Credential Reports play in formulating the National Budget for the Church Of God In Christ, Inc. He encouraged all Jurisdictional Prelates to fully support the National Church by submitting their Credential Reports.

Later, Chairman Patterson would ask the National Financial Secretary, Bishop Frank O. White, to give the Assembly an update on the jurisdictions that had not made a Credential Report. In his update, Bishop White advised the delegates that some of the reports received by his office had not yet been posted and, therefore, some jurisdictions called for not making a report had actually done so. He asked for the patience of all parties involved and assured them that their reports would be posted by the next update. Bishop White would reiterate that point at the conclusion of his update, while noting the posting would also reveal that Bishop Frank White, Jurisdictional Prelate for New York Eastern Third, had indeed made his Credential Holders Report.

The Chairman of the Assembly would later call on Bishop Charles Mason Ford, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, to give a report to the Assembly. Bishop Ford asked Elder D.L.S. Wells, Secretary of the Board of Trustees, to give a summery report of the actions of the Board since its last report. Elder Wells' report reflected the role of the Board of Trustees in upkeeping and maintaining all National properties. In its November report, the Board of Trustees presented the 2005 Budget to the delegates, and announced that the departments of Convention Services and Public Relations would now operate as "stand alone" entities and would be self-supporting.

Chairman Patterson then called on Bishop John Sheard and the Blue Ribbon Commission to come forward with the Report of the Constitutional Convention. Shortly after the Commissioners started their report, it was brought to the attention of the Chairman that the majority of the delegates did not bring their Church Of God In Christ International Constitutional Convention Proposed Amendments document with them for this session.

After consulting with his staff and the delegates, the Chairman decided it would be best to have ample copies of the document made at the nearest Kinko's. He advised the assemblage that he would ask them to be willing to pay anywhere from \$3 to \$5 to help him recoup the cost he would incur in paying for the copies.

At 11:40 a.m., Chairman Patterson adjourned the Assembly

until 6 p.m. He explained he wanted to give Kinko's enough time to print the more than 1,000 copies of the proposed amendments document.

Vice-Chairman Hunt called the House to order at 6 p.m. Tuesday, April 5. Again, Elder Fluker led the assemblage in an inspiring devotional period. Later, the House would be certified to do business with 1,100 delegates.

Following additional expressions, Vice-Chairman Hunt presented Chairman Patterson. The Chairman promptly advised the delegates that Kinko's had not completed making the copies of the amendments document. He called for a Roll Call of Jurisdictional Reports.

Then, at 6:35 p.m., the Chairman called on Presiding Bishop G.E. Patterson to give the Presidium's Report. In his opening remarks the Presiding Bishop noted that his first four years in office had allowed him to see the full financial and spiritual scope of the Church Of God In Christ, Inc. He expressed his appreciation for the Saints of the Church Of God In Christ for raising \$425,000 on COGIC Care on Sunday, January 30, for the victims of the tsunami that devastated Indonesia and others impacted by various disasters. He said it yet had not been determined on how to best distribute the funds through the charitable arm of our Church, COGIC Charities, to ensure that the global society in which we now live would be informed of our contribution. *Please note:* On Wednesday, April 13, it was announced by the Presidium that the funds would be distributed to the victims in Indonesia, Africa, and Haiti through COGIC Charities.

At this point the Presiding Bishop noted that the Credential Holders Report is "carrying (the budget for) the National Church." He observed that the funds collected at the April Call Meeting and the International Holy Convocation only provides for a budget of approximately \$4.1 million. Yet, the National Departments are asking for funding that more than doubles that amount, Presiding Bishop G.E. Patterson explained. He emphatically stated that the members of COGIC "have to find a way to support the National Church."

Then, the Presiding Bishop asked the Assistant Secretary of the General Board, Bishop R.L. H. Winbush, to come forward with the remainder of the Presidium's report. In giving a summary of the General Board's activities since the last report, Bishop Winbush advised that Board members conducted the homegoing celebrations of the following Jurisdictional Prelates: Bishop Archie Buchanan, Bishop Sherman S. Howard, Bishop J.A. Thompson, and Bishop Samuel McCartney. Bishop Winbush

reported that the following Elders were consecrated as Auxiliary Bishops: Bishop James Wright, New York; Bishop Henderson Spivey, Georgia; and Bishop Robert Asberry, Texas. Additionally, Bishop Winbush reported that Elder Carl Hodges is Bishop Designee for Pensacola, Florida. He also advised that the Presidium's Summit Leadership was held December 6-10 in Phoenix, Arizona.

Following the Presidium's Report, additional Jurisdictional Financial Reports and other special observations were given. At 7 p.m., Chairman Patterson advised the Assembly that Kinko's had called him on his cell and informed him that the copies of the proposed amendments documents would not be ready for tonight's session.

Chairman Patterson then asked the delegates if they wanted to adjourn until Wednesday, April 6, at which time the copies of the document would be ready. That was affirmed. At this point, the Chairman of the General Assembly advised that Wednesday was one of the three days of the week that he had to have a medical

matter attended to. He advised that he is usually recovered from his medical treatment (dialysis) by noon.

The assembly agreed to adjourn for the day, and reconvene at noon on Wednesday, April 6. The body was blessed with closing remarks and the benediction by Presiding Bishop G.E. Patterson.

Vice-Chairman Hunt called the House to order promptly at noon, Wednesday, April 6, with a time of worship and praise. Shortly after 1 p.m., Vice-Chairman Hunt presented Chairman Patterson, who immediately asked the Sergeant-at-Arms to bring the proposed amendments documents to the tables placed below the platform and pulpit area so they could be distributed to the delegates. The Chairman informed the assemblage that he had written a personal check for nearly \$1,000 to cover the cost for making copies of the documents. Again, he requested that a donation be given to help him recoup some of his finances. The dedicated leader left the amount given up to the delegates, but suggested that \$3 to \$5 dollars be given to compensate for those who were not prepared to give.

Later, Bishop Sheard would lead the Blue Ribbon Commission to the lower level of the platform to resume the reading of the International Constitutional Convention Proposed Amendments document. As the reading progressed, delegates advised the Chairman that several of the amendments had been revised and this particular copy did not reflect those revisions. Chairman Patterson assured the delegation that all revisions would be included in time for the November session.

Then the Commission began reading the section dealing

Presiding Bishop G.E. Patterson lauded the delegation for wanting to make sure that all of the revisions were drafted into the proposed amendments document. Such deliberations are indeed in order, considering that the amendments will impact our Constitution for decades to come.

with the "Trial of a Pastor." At this time, the Chairman recognized Judge Enoch Perry, Chief Counsel of the Church Of God In Christ. Judge Perry advised the Chairman that members of the General Board had completed their own document of amendments to the proposals. He expressed the concerns of the General Board about the National Church's vulnerability to lawsuits if the Presiding Bishop did not act expeditiously in dealing with pastors accused and eventually found guilty of sexual misconduct. Judge Perry advised the Chairman that there were ample copies of the General Board's amendments available to pass out to the delegation. He emphasized that the 30-page document dealt with all the proposals, but felt it was imperative that the delegates could read for themselves the amendment dealing with the "Trial of a Pastor." At this point, Judge Perry passionately expressed his own concerns regarding this sensitive issue.

Chairman Patterson ruled that he would permit the General Board's amendments document to be distributed to the delegates at some point later in the proceedings. He then requested for the reading to continue, noting that the delegates just had received copies of the proposed amendments.

At this point, the Blue Ribbon Commission continued reading from the amendments document. Periodically, Chairman Patterson would recognize delegates who expressed concerns about the revised document being available to all delegates.

Two hours into the Commission's report, a delegate requested that the Chairman call for a dinner recess. Chairman Patterson advised the delegation that a request for recess was not up for a motion. He noted that the consensus appeared to be in favor for a break. At this point, he called for a recess and asked the delegates to return by 5:45 p.m. so they could receive a copy of the General Board's amendments document and to prepare to be called to order at 6 p.m.

Promptly at 6 p.m. Wednesday, April 6, the House was called to order. There was a time of praise and worship. Chairman Patterson requested that the Sergeant-At-Arms distribute the General Board's document, and following that distribution he called for the return of the Blue Ribbon Commission.

The Commissioners continued their report, and as they read, there were increasing concerns about the inclusion of revisions. At this point, Chairman Patterson allowed the delegates to come

forward and offer suggestions on how the revisions could best be made. He asked the General Secretary's office to record the suggestions.

Finally, members of the delegations asked if the report could be "tabled" until the November session. Our astute Chairman advised that to table the report would mean killing it, thereby nullifying the work of the Constitutional Convention. Chairman Patterson informed the Assembly that the appropriate action would be to send the report back to committee for a re-write.

Following input from Supervisor Myra Banks of Maryland, the motion to "Send the Report Back to Committee for Re-write" was made, and the motion prevailed. Chairman Patterson commended Bishop Sheard and the Commissioners for their hard work.

Chairman Patterson then proceeded to make additional appointments to the Commission, and requested that the members meet

for a three-day retreat for the purpose of making all revisions to the proposed amendments before the November session of the General Assembly. At 9:30 p.m., Bishop J.O. Patterson Jr. adjourned the General Assembly until the November session. He asked the delegation to stand by for the closing remarks by Presiding Bishop G.E. Patterson, who was enroute.

In his closing remarks, the Presiding Bishop commended the Chairman for his exemplary leadership. He also lauded the delegation for wanting to make sure that all of

the revisions were drafted into the proposed amendments document. Such deliberations are indeed

in order considering that the amendments will impact our Constitution for decades to come, Presiding Bishop G.E. Patterson said.

The Presiding Bishop added that the revisions concerning the "Trial of a Pastor" are crucial because our Church already has been impacted by some "copy cat" lawsuits that mirrors litigation involving the Roman Catholic Church. He encouraged the delegates by saying that their coming was not in vain, and the session was quite productive.

Presiding Bishop G.E. Patterson asked the delegates to join hands as he prayed the benediction, and to uplift one another in prayer. Our Chief Apostle asked God to give the saints traveling mercy and to continue to bless the Church Of God In Christ to be a beacon of holiness in a world that offers numerous technological advancements, but yet is very much darkened by sin.



What we have learned about

A Woman's Touch

A LOOK AT THE INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DEPARTMENT

by Glenda Williams-Goodson

AFTER A RECORD SNOWSTORM left the city without power, the sun peaks through, but it's still a cold, soggy day in Memphis. Prior to Church Of God In Christ Presiding Bishop G.E. Patterson's eulogy of Mother Lelia Byas—in a manner fit for the daughter of a king—Mother Willie Mae Rivers spoke highly of this dedicated servant's lifetime work of service to the kingdom of God. As the Sixth General Supervisor of the Church Of God In Christ, Inc., her words carried the weight of over nine decades of leadership in women's ministry beginning with the formative years.

COGIC History 101: COGIC women, having found a renewed sense of self through the power of the Holy Ghost, set trends for women everywhere as they ascended to positions of leadership in the Church Of God In Christ. To portray the church's history authentically, the touching of lives through the female adherents to inspiration, wisdom, and hard work must be integrated throughout its story.

The Church Of God In Christ drew excitement as early leaders preached the message of Acts 1:8 and the Holy Ghost fire fell everywhere they went. As Founding Father Bishop C.H. Mason traveled from the Azusa Street revival, 3,000 persons were saved in Virginia as he preached the Pentecostal message. Bishop Mason understood the need for organization. In 1908, after gathering 10 congregations together who believed in the power of the Holy Ghost, he established the first department of COGIC, which was the Sunday School Department.

It is significant that the second major department established was the Department of Women. Throughout the churches, the women had begun to organize Bible Study groups, prayer groups, and missions works—but the work lacked organization. Beginning in 1911, the year Bishop Mason appointed her as Overseer of Women's Work, National Mother Lizzie Robinson traveled extensively conducting revivals using scriptures such as Jeremiah 9:17 while carrying out the vision of her leader with warmth and dignity. Throughout her travels she observed two groups in the church—one praying and the other studying the Word of God. By merging the two, she laid the foundation for the systematic teaching of doctrine and regular prayer: the Prayer and Bible Band. In her 1926 address to the Holy Convocation, she reported that she had visited over forty cities in eighteen states (at the age of 65)!

Indeed, throughout the Church Of God In Christ's existence, women—historically a disproportionate number among adherents—have complemented the work of local, district, state, and national leaders. Women such as Georgia's Mother Lydia Hinsley worked with the children and after Bishop Mason organized the Sunshine Band, she was appointed as "Big Sister Sunshine." The women of the Church Of God In Christ were also creative and powerful in financing the work of the ministry during those early days. They sold peanuts, candy, home made ice cream, and prepared dinners on street corners to day laborers as well as in the churches to help build additional houses of worship. Mother Robinson also organized a national drive to assist Bishop Mason in raising funds for



Mother Lizzie Robinson

To portray the church's history authentically, the touching of lives through the female adherents to inspiration, wisdom, and hard work must be integrated throughout its story.

Mason Temple, which upon its completion was the largest African American-owned sanctuary and building of its day.

Female clergy were obsessed with winning souls for the Kingdom of God. Beginning with the "singing" evangelist Lillian Brooks (Coffey), they traveled across the south as well as migrated to the north evangelizing, "digging out," and planting hundreds of churches before turning the work over to a pastor. As a young evangelist, Lillian Coffey rented a place and started a mission in Chicago, which served as the foundation of COGIC. Evangelist twins Leatha and Reatha Herndon were reported to dig out over 100 churches and beginning at age 14, Emily Bram (Bibby) has seen thousands of souls saved through her evangelistic ministry.

These anointed women of God were true pioneers in the Women's Department of the Church Of God In Christ. In fact, they paved the way for such present-day leaders as evangelists Maria Gardner-Thomas, Joyce Rodgers, Frances Kelley, Beverly Willis, and Romanetha Stallworth.

After leading the women for thirty-four years, Mother Robinson died in 1945. Bishop Mason then appointed Lillian Brooks Coffey as the second National Mother. Mother Coffey joined the Church Of God In Christ at age seven, along with her grandfather, and was devoted to Bishop Mason.

During the nineteen years of her tenure, the Lord allowed Mother Coffey to accomplish some outstanding achievements. Building upon the foundation laid by Mother Robinson, she established over twenty new auxiliaries. Observing the work of Dr. Arenia Mallory under whose leadership COGIC's Saints Academy student body grew to over 25,000, Mother Coffey requested that her mentor, Bishop Mason, allow the women to take over the burden of raising much of the funds needed for the Lexington, Mississippi, school. In fact, Saints Academy was organized in the basement of Bishop Mason's church when Pinkey Duncan saw the need for the offspring of the saints to have a school. Under Mother Coffey's leadership, the Department of Women also built Dad Mason a ranch style home in 1952.

Although Mother Elizabeth White had traveled to Africa in 1925, the Church Of God In Christ Home and Foreign Missions was organized when Mother Robinson met Elder Searcy in 1926 and encouraged him to journey to Memphis to meet Bishop Mason and COGIC leaders. The Department of Women, under Mother Coffey's leadership, supported over twelve missions. Women including Dorothy Exume, Katie Frazier, Beatrice Lott, Martha Barber, Pearl Page Brown, Mary Elizabeth Kennedy, and many others traveled both with and without their husbands, braving the elements and oppositional forces such as witch doctors. Under the banner of the Church Of God In Christ, these inspired women established medical stations and schools in exotic locales including Haiti, Africa, London, and South America. Later, women including Mother Allie Crutchner ventured into Canada to systemize the work there.

On the leading edge of Christian service, one of Mother Coffey's crowning achievements was the creation of the Department of Women's International Convention. During the turbulent sixties, women of the Church Of God In Christ touched lives of civil rights leaders such as Medger Evers, whose mother served as Church Mother in Jackson, Mississippi. And on the way to becoming the largest women's convention of its day (although met with opposition), with the help of God and the bishops, the saints were able to accomplish such impressive feats as the desegregation of the hotels in Albany, New York. Another star for the Church Of God In Christ was the purchase of the Lillian B. Coffey Rest Home, the residence of a Detroit millionaire where retired missionaries and others retreated after years of labor under her exemplary leadership. As it matured, the Church Of God In Christ continued to witness phenomenal growth. Female evangelists continued to fan out across the country while women including Dr. Mattie Moss Clark organized the International Department of Music and changed the American gospel sound forever.

The power of God to save and heal continued through the Church Of God In Christ and a young woman, Anne Pennington, was saved after attending a tent revival. It was here that she witnessed the healing power of God upon a woman who had been bed ridden for over five years. She joined a group of evangelists who traveled the East Coast of the United States, going door to door in tenements and backyards compelling men and women to come to Christ.



Mother Lillian B. Coffey



Mother Annie L. Bailey

In 1922, she and other evangelists established the First Church Of God In Christ in Newark. In 1934 she was appointed State Supervisor. That same year she married John Seth Bailey, who would later serve on the General Board of the Church Of God In Christ.

Upon the death of Mother Coffey, Mother Bailey was named Third National Supervisor in 1964 and became known as the "Darling of the Brotherhood" as she led the women with tenderness and honesty through the "dark days" of COGIC church history. During her eleven-year tenure she kept the auxiliaries alive while organizing others including the Business and Professional League and the National Sunday School Representatives unit. In 1975, at 81 years of age, the soft spoken, gracious and anointed woman joined other pioneers and graduated to her eternal home.

Mother Mattie McGlothen, known as "Sister Hospitality" or "Mother Hospitality," was born in Mexia, Texas, and was saved after she was healed of consumption at a tent revival. She worked alongside her husband, Elder (later Bishop) George McGlothen as an evangelistic team before establishing churches in Oklahoma, Iowa, and California, where he founded the McGlothen Temple Church Of God In Christ. Mother McGlothen shared that she would sleep in the car alongside her husband as they traveled winning souls for Christ. After meeting Bishop C.H. Mason, the couple began working in the national church where Mother McGlothen founded and organized the National

Hospitality Department. Many saints converged upon California and women including Mother McGlothen and Mother L.O. Hale pioneered the women's work in a gracious and godly manner. In 1933, Mother Robinson appointed her State Mother of Northern California.

After the death of Mother Coffey, Mother McGlothen, who had proven to be a loyal and loving assistant, was appointed International Supervisor for the Department of Women in 1976. Her service as pastor's wife, evangelist, Jurisdictional Supervisor, Assistant International Supervisor, and organizer accented her service of elegance and hospitality. She organized or revived the Education and Scholarship Fund, the Emergency Relief Fund, and the Screening Committee for Jurisdictional Supervisors before her work on earth ended upon her demise. She served the Lord through the Church for 65 years before going home to be with the Lord in 1994.

Mother Emma Crouch, known as the "Texas Rose," served faithfully for seventeen years as Assistant International Supervisor and was elevated to the position of International Supervisor in 1994.

She was saved at age nineteen. A product of Saints College (and later Bishop College), this educator and ardent worker married Elder B.J. Crouch in 1938. Mother Crouch served as church mother, pastor's wife, missionary, district missionary, and Jurisdictional Sunshine Band President, moving up through the ranks. During her lifetime, she recalled traveling as an Aide to Texas State Mother Bertha Polk and traveling on cattle cars with chickens from town to town, spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ. She was appointed Jurisdictional Supervisor in 1956. The next year, she was appointed National Usher Board President, and to the National Board of Trustees in 1960. Under her leadership as President of the Women's International Convention, the Women's Convention Orchestra was formed with the appointment of Dr. Vernard Johnson as Maestro.



Mother Mattie McGlothen

Mother Crouch was founder and organizer of the Christian Women's Council, which was designed for women 40 years and older; reorganized the National Pastor's Aide; appointed Mother Lelia Byas as Historian; organized the General Board of Bishops' Wives Circle; and divided the Board of Supervisors into Circle One and Circle Two for the Department of Women.

Her reign was the shortest of all National Supervisors; she died in 1997.

Mother Willie Mae Rivers has been called the "Modern Day Sweetheart" of the Church Of God In Christ. She was filled with the Holy Ghost at a revival in 1946, subsequently joining the Calvary Church Of God In Christ. Married at the tender age of 15 to Brother David Rivers, the couple's love produced twelve children. The experience of leading ten daughters and two sons along with her humble and godly character may have been a deciding factor in her appointment as church mother at age 21.

Her life has been one of dedicated service to God, her family, and her community. She traveled across South Carolina as an evangelist missionary before becoming a district missionary. Her willingness to serve in any capacity, from scaling fish and cooking as fundraisers for her local church, to traveling with the Jurisdictional Supervisor as an aide, was a contributing factor to her appointment as Supervisor of the South Carolina Jurisdiction in 1968.

Experiential knowledge gained while serving at each level of the International Department of Women—International Marshall, Chairperson of Supervisors Board, Instructor of District Missionaries Classes, Member Screening Committee, to name a few—contributed to her appointment as Third Assistant General Supervisor to Mother Mattie McGlothen, and later Second and First Assistant to Mother Emma Crouch.

In 1997, following the death of Mother Crouch, Willie Mae Rivers was appointed International Supervisor. Through her leadership, the Department of Women has shown renewed Holy Ghost-excitement during the Women's International Conventions/Crusades and at the International Holy Convocation Women's Days as well.

Delegates at the WIC/Crusade now have the opportunity to join witnessing teams in each host city. Others have visited area nursing homes to provide material substance and cheer to those who are shut in. Her special touch resonates among delegates aged 49 and Under. Through her Dialogue with the Supervisors, she gains needed input from these bright ladies to assist in perpetuating the legacy of holiness to the world.

As International Supervisor, Mother Rivers has also formulated an installation service for Jurisdictional Supervisors during the International Holy Convocation.

Mother Rivers' travel schedule mirrors that of the First National Mother, as she travels around the country as well as Europe and Asia.

We salute the hundreds of thousands of unnamed women, from the Bible Band teachers to the Bishops' Wives, who have throughout the years of the Church Of God In Christ emphasized collegiality, closeness, helpfulness, and consensus as the ministry of Jesus Christ through the Church Of God In Christ has expanded to encompass the globe.



Mother Emma Frances Crouch



Mother Willie Mae Rivers

Information for this article was taken from Bishop Mason and the Roots of the Church of God in Christ by Bishop Ithiel Clemmons; This is the Church of God in Christ by Dr. Bobby Bean; and Those Sanctified Women! By Glenda Williams-Goodson.

Mother Willie Mae Rivers: Women's International Convention

Greetings to All Delegates of the Women's International Convention!

We thank God for allowing us to come together again. We give special honor to our Presiding Bishop, Bishop G.E. Patterson, who we appreciate for supporting this vital Church of God in Christ convention.

I thank God for each of my predecessors and the legacy of holiness they left to us: Mother Lizzie Robinson, Mother Lillian Brooks Coffey, Mother Annie Bailey, Mother Mattie McGlothen, and Mother Emma Crouch. Each of these Mothers in Zion left their mark on the Church of God in Christ and impacted the world in a positive way.

The Women's International Convention is unique to our church. From the 1950 founding of Women's International Convention by Mother Lillian Brooks Coffey until today, this Convention has been convened as a special week for the women of the Church of God in Christ to come together to bond, affirm, and be refreshed. In fact, the entire week has been planned for your edification and enjoyment and we appreciate each tireless worker who has made this convention successful. We pray that each of you who have traveled by plane, train, bus, or car to enjoy this week of fellowship will not be disappointed.

My heart's desire and prayer is that you would avail yourself to as many opportunities for prayer, spiritual refreshing through the word of God, or workshop as possible. I would like to hear reports that you have returned to your local church settings with a renewed mind to work with your pastor and auxiliaries and win more souls for the Kingdom of God.

I love each of you, my daughters, and pray that we will continue to bond together for the edification of Christ's kingdom.

Love and prayers,
Mother Willie Mae Rivers
International Supervisor of Women



PROFILE OF COURAGE

Faithful to His Promise: Evangelist Shirley McLaurin

*by Missionary Patricia Ann Stanley, Instructor of English, Jackson State University
Member, Greater Love Temple COGIC, Jackson, Mississippi*

Evangelist Shirley McLaurin is a beacon of light for the sick and the lost as she is called upon to encourage, educate, and minister. She is a member of Living Faith Cathedral Ministries Church Of God In Christ in Greenwood, Mississippi, where Elder Raleigh L. Lawson is the anointed and visionary pastor. She serves as an evangelist and president of Missions at Living Faith. This dynamic woman of God is married to Minister Gregory McLaurin.

As a child, Shirley McLaurin could not have imagined the path her life would take, but her devotion to God developed the faith that enabled her to put the future into the hands of God. It was that faith that sustained and helped her to surmount cancer, and it is that faith that enables her to endure ongoing challenges today.

Shirley was just approaching her fifth year of being healed of thyroid cancer, when in January 2000 she was diagnosed with breast cancer. She had hoped the lump that the obstetrician found in her breast was nothing serious. Unfortunately, it was found to be malignant. Through her first bout with thyroid cancer, Shirley learned first hand what it meant to trust God. However, when the doctor told her that the breast cancer might be related to the thyroid cancer and that she might have to have a mastectomy if it was, she was shaken.

"I remember," said Shirley, "trying to fight back the despair that was rapidly chiseling away at my now-seemingly mustard seed faith. I thought to myself, 'What now, God?' I just wasn't ready for another fight."

Shirley underwent seven months of radiation and chemotherapy to treat the thyroid cancer. The radiation was so aggressive that it burned her throat from the inside out, leaving it raw; even so, she began the intense chemotherapy.

"The seven months of treatment were the toughest I had ever had to endure," she said. "The fight was hard, but I refused to believe that I was going to die. I kept the Word before me, and even though I cried, I never doubted whether God would heal me, for He had promised."

God did heal her, but the aggressive radiation treatment caused her esophagus to close. It cannot maintain its restriction; therefore, it has to be stretched approximately every two months. Shirley was learning to jump this hurdle when she was diagnosed with breast cancer. After the biopsy, she learned that the breast cancer was not related to the thyroid cancer. That meant no mastectomy! She underwent seven months of treatment again, seven weeks of radiation and five months of chemotherapy. Neither treatment was as aggressive as the first treatment.

Today, Evangelist McLaurin is cancer free—healed and testifying to the power of God! She says, "I would not have survived if it had not been for the mercy of God. I give Him all the praise. On the onset, God told me that I was healed. His promise kept me during the ordeals. I learned it is important to maintain faith in God no matter what the situation looks like or what the doctors say. God's Word is final."

Evangelist McLaurin's communion with her heavenly Father has touched the lives of many. Her bout with cancer has opened a greater door for ministry in her community. As she awaits the manifested healing of her esophagus, she stands in faith and proclaims that through God, all things are possible!



Evangelist Shirley McLaurin

... through God, all things are possible!

Small-Town Pastor Carries Mega-Clout

"Where there is no vision the people perish ..." Proverbs 29:18

by Joyce Walker-Tyson

WHEN MICHIGAN GOVERNOR Jennifer Granholm needed a pastor to deliver the invocation at her 2005 State of the State address, she looked not to Detroit, but to the shores of Lake Michigan on the western edge of the state.

Bishop Nathaniel W. Wells Jr., Pastor of the Holy Trinity Institutional Church Of God In Christ in Muskegon and serving a second term as a member of the Presidium of the Church Of God In Christ, called the invitation to pray for the governor an "honor."

"Gov. Granholm, through her vision and leadership, has made Michigan one of the best-governed states in this country," Bishop Wells told reporters. "I am honored that she would include me in her address to the legislature and to the people of this great state."

Those who know the governor and Bishop Wells called the choice obvious.

"Bishop Wells was a natural choice for us at this time," said Greg Roberts, Director of the state's Community and Faith-Based Initiatives program. "The governor respects him as a spiritual and community leader whose ministries and programs are among those that set the standard for faith-based initiatives in this state."

Bishop Wells, whose general board responsibilities include oversight of the denomination's Housing and Community Development initiatives, sets a national example through programs and services within his own community and within the Western Michigan Jurisdiction he oversees. He has drawn together experts in myriad disciplines to enable local groups to establish wholesome neighborhoods and stimulate economic development near COGIC churches throughout the nation.

He is president of the COGIC (Community Organization Giving Individual Care) Community Services Center, Tri-Valley Academy (first charter school district in Muskegon County), and the Trinity Nonprofit Housing Corporation (TNHC).

TNHC has developed more than 1,500 multi-family housing units and more than 300 senior housing units in Bangor, Benton Harbor, Holland, Muskegon, Muskegon Heights, Niles, Port Huron, and Ravenna, Michigan; and in LaPorte and Indianapolis, Indiana. Bishop Wells is credited with establishing a regional transportation system that contributes \$6 million annually to West Michigan communities.

"The church—particularly in the African-American community—has historically taken the lead in social, political, and

economic development issues," Bishop Wells said during a joint press conference with the governor. "We take very seriously Christ's mandate to us to preach the gospel, feed the hungry, shelter the homeless, clothe the naked, and set the captives free. In this day and age, that means we must be about building the community socially and economically as well as spiritually."

Granholm appointed Bishop Wells to serve on the steering committee to establish the Michigan Office of Community and Faith-Based Initiatives. A statewide resource symposium to acquaint religious leaders with state programs and agencies attracted more than 1,000 religious leaders from every denomination around the state.

Bishop Wells arranged for the Michigan/Ontario Council of Bishops to meet privately with the symposium's keynote speaker, Jim Towey, director of the White House Office of Community and Faith-Based Initiatives, to discuss more effective minority and faith-based programs and partnerships.

A senior pastor for 29 years and a jurisdictional bishop for 20 years, the Bishop's "Total Man Ministry" broadcast is aired throughout the US and in more than 170 countries worldwide.

He served 12 years as chairman of the Church Of God In Christ Credentials Committee, two terms on the national Trustee Board, and two terms on the national Judiciary Board before being elected in 2000 to the Presidium.

Bishop Wells is a member of the board of directors of Comerica Bank and of TCT (Total Christian Television). He is former chairman of the Muskegon-Oceana Community Action Partnership, Inc. and a former board member for the United Way of Muskegon County.

Bishop Wells has been named Most Influential Person of the Year in Muskegon and Muskegon County NAACP's Man of the Year. He has received the Liberty Bell Award (Muskegon County Bar Association), Muskegon County Economic Development Award, Jeanne Peterson Award (for affordable housing), the Dr. Martin Luther King Award, and the Quality of Life Award.

"I think that most people automatically think of Detroit when they think of Michigan," Roberts said. "They don't realize the progressive power we have on the other side of the state. We count on Bishop Wells as a "go-to" leader and we've been blessed to have him working with us."



Bishop Nathaniel W. Wells Jr.

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(Same results as 4 Roots Up Moisturizer, but recommended for color treated hair.)

STEP 4:

Apply **SUPER ROOTS HOT OIL TREATMENT**.

For best results, massage the Hot Oil into hair and scalp every other day. Massage well. Comb hair into desired style.



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JURISDICTIONAL PRELATE PROFILE:

Bishop L.T. Blackshear, D.D.

PRESIDING PRELATE, DELAWARE JURISDICTION

by Calvin L. Burns

BISHOP C.H. MASON CONSECRATED Elder Lieutenant Thomas Blackshear Bishop of the Delaware Jurisdiction in 1960. He shares a rich heritage with Bishop A.T. Moore, Jurisdictional Prelate for Kentucky's First, who received his appointment from Bishop Mason in 1947. Bishop A.E. Reed—who currently resides in Memphis as a Bishop without Charge—also has the honor of being consecrated by Bishop Mason, as the Jurisdictional Prelate of Montana.



Bishop Blackshear, 88, continues to provide exemplary leadership for Delaware, which was not taken from under the Washington, D.C. umbrella until 1950. In fact, the Delaware Jurisdiction has grown from three congregations to eighteen during Bishop Blackshear's tenure. He served as Superintendent of Delaware's Southern District before being elevated to Jurisdictional Prelate.

This insightful leader has literally built five churches and renovated a number of others. Currently, he serves as senior pastor at three churches in Delaware: Mt. Calvary Temple COGIC in Wilmington, Bibleway Temple Institutional COGIC in Dover, and New Holy Trinity COGIC in Millsboro.

Bishop Blackshear has been nationally acclaimed for his storied ministry, and as a pioneer for the Church Of God In Christ in Delaware. He has been a member of the Church Of God In Christ for 70 years, a minister for 69 years, and a pastor for 67 years. This anointed vessel of God has served with distinction on the local and state levels as District YPWW President, State YPWW President, State Expediter, member of the Board of Ordination, and Presiding Prelate.

On the National level, he is presently a member of the Board of Bishops. Additionally, he serves as a member of the Rules and Constitution committees of the General Assembly. Bishop Blackshear has been nominated as a candidate for the General Board three times.

The stately minister is a man of letters. He holds degrees from Moody Bible Institute in Chicago and New York Theological Seminary. He also earned a Doctor of Divinity and a Doctor of Jurisprudence from the National College of Canada. He has served on numerous boards of education and as a member of the board of directors for several civic organizations.

Bishop Blackshear has received a number of awards and honors. Some of them include Outstanding Award recognition from the following organizations: 1972, Outstanding Service Award, Youth Department of the Church Of God In Christ; 1976, Outstanding Service, Mayor of Dover; 1976, Outstanding Citizen's Award, NAACP; Citizen of the Year, Concerned Citizens of Delaware; and a Special House of Representatives Resolution of Congratulations from the 128th General Assembly of the Delaware House of Representatives, House Resolution No. 147.

Whether it's his biological or spiritual family, Delaware's visionary Jurisdictional Prelate emphasizes the importance of operating in the authority of **God's Holy Word**. He notes The Call to Holiness in Leviticus 11: 44–45, while declaring the need for each believer to experience the **Upper Room baptism** as recorded in Acts 2:4.

" ... you can't build for God without having fellowship with Him. You must depend on God in every aspect of your life, if you want Him to direct your paths. God has given us the blueprint for salvation and a victorious life ... and that comes through **Jesus Christ!**"



Bishop Blackshear's charming wife, Mother Sylvia S. Blackshear, has stood faithfully by his side for nearly six decades. Six lovely children were born to their union, of which five are living. The Blackshear siblings adhered to the teachings of their parents on living a victorious life through Jesus Christ, and all of them have excelled in their careers. They are Elder Charles L. Blackshear, assistant pastor of Bibleway Temple; Esther B. Blackshear, L.P.N.; Ruth Blackshear-Lewis, teacher; Lieutenant Thomas Blackshear Jr., city housing Inspector and licensed realtor; and Sylvia Vanessa Blackshear-Holsey, executive secretary.

Whether it's his biological or spiritual family, Delaware's visionary Jurisdictional Prelate emphasizes the importance of operating in the authority of God's Holy Word. He notes The Call to Holiness in Leviticus 11: 44-45, while declaring the need for each believer to experience the Upper Room baptism as recorded in Acts 2:4.

In fact, those scriptures have been a reoccurring theme for Bishop Blackshear down through the years as he traveled across the country evangelizing, holding tent revivals, and establishing churches and missions. This master builder and powerful presenter of the Gospel embodies the spiritual significance of Hebrews 3:3-4 - *For this man was counted worthy of more glory than Moses, in as much as he who hath builded the house hath more honor than the house. For every house is builded by some man; but he that built all things is God.*

Yes, God gave Bishop Blackshear the blueprint to build the Delaware Jurisdiction up from three COGIC churches to eighteen. This humble servant of God is keenly aware, however, that God is the builder of every good and perfect structure. All that is good and constructive in this life can be traced to Him. And for those who love Him, He makes all things work together for their good. He can take the worse defeats in life and transform them into glorious victories.

In talking with Bishop Blackshear, it was apparent to *The Whole Truth* that this beloved Jurisdictional Prelate is focused on doing the will of God when he works to build people up in the Lord. A reference was made to "kingdom work" and Romans 14:17 - *For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.*

"I am most thankful to God for allowing me to establish and build churches for His Kingdom," he said. "On January 9th the Lord blessed me by allowing my to observe my 40th anniversary as the Jurisdictional Prelate of Delaware ... and you are correct, it is very gratifying to know that we are building on the foundation of sound doctrine," he continued.

Bishop Blackshear concluded his interview with *The Whole Truth* by referring to another scripture passage that he uses as a call to action—Proverbs 3:5-6 - *Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.*

"We have been talking about building for the Kingdom of God," Bishop Blackshear reflected. "Well, you can't build for God without having fellowship with Him. You must depend on God in every aspect of your life, if you want Him to direct your paths. God has given us the blueprint for salvation and a victorious life ... and that comes through Jesus Christ! To God be the Glory for directing my paths as a husband, father, pastor, community leader, and Jurisdictional Prelate," he concluded.

Mother Rubeinstein McClure

JURISDICTIONAL SUPERVISOR FOR NEW YORK SOUTHEAST

by Calvin L. Burns

SHE IS AN ANOINTED, gracious and articulate woman of God, whose very countenance reflects the essence of a sanctified lifestyle. Meet Mother Rubeinstein McClure, Jurisdictional Supervisor for the New York Southeast Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction, where the eminent Bishop Norman Nelson Quick serves as Jurisdictional Prelate.

Mother McClure is a member of Zion Cathedral Church Of God In Christ in Freeport, New York, where the distinguished Bishop Frank O. White is senior pastor. Bishop White is the National Financial Secretary for the Church Of God In Christ, and serves as the Jurisdictional Prelate for New York Eastern Third. Under his bishopric Mother McClure served as the Elect Lady of the Third Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction for seven years. Prior to her appointment as Supervisor for New York Southeast, she served as the Jurisdictional Supervisor for the country of Belize, which is located in Central America for eight years.



This saintly mother is one who possesses the letters of academia, while operating under a special anointing for ministry. She is a graduate of the Louisville, Kentucky, Bible Training Institute where she received her Bachelor of Arts Degree in Theology. Her academic and cultural base contributed to the numerous awards that she has received over the years.

The multi-talented Mother McClure is very active in both church and civic communities. As a direct result of her contributions on the spiritual, community, and national fronts, she has gained national recognition through television and radio programs. She holds an FCC license for broadcasting, and is a noted gospel recording artist as well.

Her biological and spiritual roots can be traced to Birmingham, Alabama, where she was born into the union of Fletcher and Mary Washington. At an early age, she was taught that she should love the Lord with all her heart, mind, and soul. She was a member of Gethsemane Holiness Church under the leadership of Bishop George Christian. It was under Bishop Christian's ministry that she was baptized and filled with the Holy Ghost. She worked untiringly with the young people's choir and the usher's department. She was the church pianist and an aid to the First Lady.

Mother McClure is a devoted wife and loving mother. She has been married to Elder John H. McClure for 38 years. They are the parents of two children, Tonya and John Jr.

The Supervisor for New York Southeast has faithfully and gracefully shared the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ for more than 47 years. Her life of steadfastness and humility has opened many doors. She is indeed an ambassador for Christ, and she works unselfishly for the master. She is a national evangelist who has traveled extensively across the country ministering to the needs of millions. God has truly implanted words of knowledge and inspiration through her teaching and singing ministry.

The students, staff, and faculty at the Charles Harrison Mason Theological Seminary in Atlanta, Georgia, are still talking about how they were inspired by Mother McClure's powerful presentation at the graduate school's 33rd Founder's Day celebration. Mother McClure delivered the message for the chapel observance, and she uplifted the entire audience with her soul stirring address.

Her primary lesson scripture was taken from Matthew 5:14, where Jesus said, "Ye are the light of the world ... A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden." She spoke from the theme *Be Who You Are*.

In her message, Mother McClure stated that, "We celebrate our facility of higher learning, as its educators and staff both former and present, for diligence and tenacity in which they instruct and affect all who attend and affiliate with this facility."

She noted that the seminary is a place where students are instructed in 1) How to study the Word; 2) The History of the Word; 3) How to be homiletically correct; 4) How to Evangelize; and 5) How to set ourselves aside to seek God as our founder, Bishop Charles Harrison Mason, did.

She recalled that Bishop Mason was an anointed man of God, one who was given to prayer and full of the Holy Ghost. She stated that Bishop Mason exemplified the following scriptures: Ephesians 5:18 - *And be not drunk with*

“Be who you are.”

wine, wherein is excess but be filled with the spirit; Acts 1:8 - But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you; and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

“Yes, we have acquired a great amount of knowledge,” she said in a reflective tone. “We have certificates of study, and we have all kind of degrees ... but it is incumbent upon each of us who teach and preach to *be who you are*,” she continued.

Mother McClure emphasized the point that in the text, Jesus is speaking to his disciples about the greatness of their mission in the world. She noted that as modern-day disciples, we have a great mission today—not just to the word, but to **do** the word. She expounded on the fact that Christ’s disciples are to be the light of the world, and are to represent Him, who is the world’s true light.

“Christ charged his disciples to be visible, not just on the pulpit, the platform, and the podiums, but everywhere in your everyday life,” she said. At this point in her message, she shared the following Visible adjectives:

- **Able to be seen:** capable of being seen by, or perceptible to the human eye
- **Insight:** in somebody’s sight at a particular time
- **Obvious:** easily noticeable
- **Detectable:** capable of being discovered by means of the mental faculties
- **Often seen publicly:** frequent in the public eye
- **Designed to keep something in view:** designed to keep information or an item in view or able to readily be brought to view.

She then declared, as Christ’s disciples, our lives should be blameless. “We are living epistles being seen and read of men,” she said. “The fact that we are Christ’s epistles personified should have a noticeable impact on those that we come in contact with on a daily basis.”

Mother McClure defined light as “that which makes vision possible.” She added that “light creates knowledge and separates one from darkness. In scripture, light illuminates.” She quoted from I John 1: 5–7, and I Timothy 6:16.

“It is time to be who you are,” she declared. “Be who we are, we are the righteous of God, we are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood,” she continued, quoting from I Peter 2:9. She emphasized that it’s time to fulfill our call and “accomplish our mission.”

Mother McClure ended her message by lifting up the name of Jesus to a standing audience. “The world is asleep and dead, but the light has come; now we are the light,” she exclaimed. She added that we should shine until darkness dissipates.

“Let’s shine till darkness runs away,” she emphatically stated. “Let’s shine till prostitutes become prayer warriors. Let’s shine till crack-heads will crack the Bible. Let’s shine till rebellious children return home. Let’s remember I John 4:4: ‘Greater is he that is in you than he that is in the world.’ Let’s shine, *be who you are*,” she concluded, as a great wave of praise and thanksgiving engulfed the chapel.

*Mother McClure emphasized ... that as modern-day disciples, we have a great mission today—not just to the word, but to **do** the word. ... “Christ charged his disciples to be visible, not just on the pulpit, the platform, and the podiums, but everywhere in your everyday life,” she said.*

Capturing the Essence of Jesus: The Christological Question—Sonship

PART II of II By Bishop Martin Luther Johnson, M. Div., Ph. D., Jurisdictional Prelate, New Jersey, First Jurisdiction

SONSHIP AND SON IN THE NEW Testament is rooted in the Greek word **Uios**, or **Wheos**. Peter, in Matthew 16:16, uses the definite article “the” in his identification of The Christ: “Thou art the Christ, the Son (O Uois, the Wheos) of the living God.” Christos or Christ here refers to The Anointed, rather than an anointed person as was seen in the Old Testament era where Kings, Priests, and Prophets were anointed for a specific role in society-kingdom leadership. The fact that Jesus accepted and affirmed the confession suggests an understanding of his anointing and of the subsequent role he was to fulfill in the world. In capturing the very essence of Jesus, it seems rather strange to me that those who erroneously espouse the “Jesus only and the Jesus is God theology” obviously overlook or ignore the biblical reports that Jesus frequently speaks of God as someone other than himself, as seen in Mark 10:9, 18; 13: 19; 15:34; Jesus exercises Divine power (Luke 11:20) but disclaims Divine Omniscience (Matthew 24:36) and refuses to invoke Divine Omnipotence (Matthew 4:1-10; 26:53), while he claims a unique relationship with God and says that he is the only way to God (John 14:6). While the New Testament introduces no new doctrine of God, it is literally filled with references to His new relationship with man in the person of Jesus Christ.

The Gospel of John presents a different approach to the understanding of the Christ event in history. John’s Gospel commences the life of Christ as having taken place before his earthly appearance at Bethlehem; for John, Jesus is the Pre-existent Word, or Logos. For John, Jesus was/is prior to creation—he always was and always will be. The biblical records are proof that Jesus existed before the incarnation and his earthly appearance, and that he exists after the crucifixion. The pre-existent Word, Christ, Logos was begotten, not created. Jesus, the pre-existent Word is as old as his Father and many years older than his mother, John 8:58

The Johannine argument in 1:1–3 introduces an unusual approach to the study of the Christos, or the Christ. The rendering, “In the beginning (en arche ho Logos) was the Word,” Logos is key to the understanding of John’s Gospel. John also employs what is called dualisms—light and darkness, above and below,

flesh and spirit—as theological motifs to convey to his readers what his understanding is of the true nature of Christ. While John sees Christ as the pre-existent Word of God, he never denies the humanity of Jesus. For John, Jesus was not simply born in Bethlehem, he was the incarnate Lamb of God who used Mary’s womb as an incubator, Bethlehem as his birthplace, and Nazareth as his post office box. For John, Jesus was/is not God but he is the highest revelation of God in human flesh. For John, Jesus is the culmination of God’s plan for salvation, the last and final effort to save humanity. The core of the presentation in John is, “*And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth.*” John 1:14.

The preceding reference above is perhaps one of the most profound verses in the New Testament Bible. It runs counter to the understanding of the gods of the Greek-Roman world, for their gods were always hidden and at a distance. Their gods were always mystical and were to be revered and feared. The concept of Docetism suggests that their gods sneak in unnoticed and sneak out the same way, but the God of the New Testament allows a part of Himself to become flesh, dwell among men and allows man to see Him, full of grace and truth. And the Word (Logos) was made flesh (Sarx) and dwelt (tabernacled) among us, and we

beheld his glory (doxa), full of grace (charis) and truth (aletheia). John is essentially saying that God allowed Himself to be revealed in human flesh without ever diminishing Himself. In other words, God was no less God in heaven while He was in the person of Jesus Christ. As Plato would say, God can never become less than who He already is, thus, here is implied God’s immutability.

In the book of John, God’s *dabar* (wisdom, *chokmah*, the Greek, *Sophia*) and God’s Word are often the same, and it is significant that while John calls Jesus the Word of God, Paul calls him the Wisdom of God, I Cor. 1:24,30. In the Targums, “word” (Aramaic is *memra*) is used for God Himself, Genesis 27:21. But for the Hebrews, God’s word is more than a verbal utterance, it is His creative self-revelation, or the side of God that he chose to turn towards the world of sinful man, thus assuring his salvation.

John employs ... dualisms—light and darkness, above and below, flesh and spirit—as theological motifs to convey to his readers what his understanding is of the true nature of Christ. While John sees Christ as the pre-existent Word of God, he never denies the humanity of Jesus.

... for the Hebrews, God's word is more than a verbal utterance, it is His creative self-revelation, or the side of God that he chose to turn towards the world of sinful man, thus assuring his salvation.

Therefore what John 1:1–2 is saying in the prologue is that the Logos is not some blind, impersonal, creative principle of life, but is the personal expression of the Living God in the person of Jesus Christ: “*God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself*,” is Paul’s understanding of the incarnate Christ, II Cor. 5:19.

To the Greek world to which John provides some answers to the event of the Jesus on earth, John goes beyond the traditional understanding of the revelation of the gods of Greece, who could never become humans. Plato understood reality as forms and ideas, or a shadow as a man in a cave. Therefore reality was always an approximation, or tentative rather than conclusive. But in John, God the intangible became tangible in Jesus Christ: “We beheld His glory in human flesh.” While God is not seen by any man, in Jesus Christ we were given to see as much of God as man could stand to see and understand.

In response to the “Macedonian Call” (Acts 16:9), Paul and his companions had crossed the Aegean Sea from Troas to Neapolis and had followed the Egnatian Way some eight to ten miles to the city Philippi. Paul’s visit and work at Philippi mark the birthplace and beginning of European Christianity. When the Gospel of the Palestinian Jew transcended the confines of Palestine and was now on European-Greek soils, there was presented a new set of dynamics and challenges to the exponents of that Gospel. These dynamics included the political, cultural, social, religious, and philosophical differences and challenges: Paganism, Gnosticism, Hellenism, Stoicism, Epicureanism, and

the different concepts and understandings of the gods. This difference between the worship of the God of Israel and that of the gods of Greece is nowhere more clearly seen than during Paul’s encounter with the Greek philosophical system practiced on Mars’ Hill, Acts 17.

The challenge to Paul was to determine the approach to planting the Gospel of Jesus on foreign soil: Greece. He is immediately confronted with the problem of language, thoughts, symbolisms, Hellenistic orientation, and the challenge of translating and transliterating the Gospel so that it could be easily understood and applicable to the intellectual Greek mind. To the church at Philippi, Paul writes a letter in which he compares the event of Christ to that of a familiar Greek understanding of their savior-redeemer-god. While John states that Jesus was the Word incarnate in flesh, Paul chooses to use the Platonic concept, from (morphe) of God in Philippians 2:6. This form of God for Paul, however, does not rob Jesus of his Godness.

Rather as it is understood in the

Old Testament, God is no mere “Ultimate Reality” or “Ground of Being,” but He is a personal Savior God who intervenes in the religious and historical affairs of man.

One of Paul’s points of departure was his utilization of the Christological hymn in Chapter 2:5–11 where he shows forth the descent of Christ from his exaltation to his humiliation and then, once again, exaltation. What Paul is doing here is answering the theology found in the Gnostic hymn of creation and salvation. The Gnostic hymn set forth the Docetic concept, which perhaps



Bishop Martin Luther Johnson

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St. John, Chapter 17 ... is clear evidence of oneness of purpose and unity of essence, while the "we" passages suggest a plurality of persons ... the "Oneness-in-Three" rather than a "Three-in-One" God is externally expressed in Three Persons, The Trinity!

has roots in the teachings of Socrates—that originally the real self was with the gods in the heavenlies, but the real self lost its way and fell to earth and was captured in a body (soma), which is evil. Thus the eternal longing of the real self is to escape the prison house of the body and return to ultimate reality with the gods; but the real self is imprisoned in the body. While the real self tries to escape the prison house of the body, the self cannot do it alone because it is ignorant and needs to be enlightened with knowledge (gnosis), thus enabling it to escape the body and rejoin the gods, which is true reality.

Liberation from the body is predicated upon enlightenment, which cannot come from within, it must come from the upper region of the gods. Therefore the gods sneak in, in disguise and undetected by humans and provide the enlightening necessary for liberation from the body, which is matter and is sinful. While Paul is familiar with Old Testament theophanies (God's appearances) and anthropomorphism (God presenting Himself in some human forms), he chooses as his point of departure the Christological hymn which is similar to the Gnostic hymn of creation. To the Greek mind at Philippi, the analogy and similarities would register immediately. In John 1:1–4, John uses the procedure of concatenation while Paul in Philippians 2:5–11 uses the concept of decent and ascent to describe to the Philippians the process through which Jesus became the redeemer or the enlightenment of lost humanity. In New Testament theology this process is called "demythologizing," or the taking off of the original cultural clothing and putting the message in clothing that is understood within the cultural context and setting to which the message is written. It must be noted here that Paul utilized to the maximum his theological skills as a master de-mythologist.⁽¹⁾

While Paul employs a number of terms and expressions that are uniquely Greek in orientation—church (ekklesia), salvation (soteriology), truth (aletheia), man (anthropos), flesh (sarx), soma (body), master, lord (kurios), preaching (kerugma), the Gospel (euangelion), soul (psuche), life (zoe), love (agape, eros, philein, storage)—he does not allow the original message of Jesus to lose its meaning and purpose for the Hellenistic-Greek world.

(1) J.M. Furness, *Exploring Vital Words of the Bible*. (Iowa Falls, Iowa: World Bible Publishers, Inc., 1966), pp. 119–20.

There are several aspects of the Christological hymn in Philippians 2:5–11 that point out the Sonship of Jesus and at the same time attest to his heavenly pre-existence and to his eternal existence. The supreme example of self-renunciation: no reputation, the form of a servant, in the likeness of men, and in fashion as a man; humiliation and obedience to death. The obvious difference between the Gnostic redeemer-gods and the Christ of God is the visibility of form, likeness, and fashion. This is evidence that the Redeemer of the Judaeo-Christian faith is not one who snuck in and was undetected by man; rather, he had likeness, shape and form, and was touchable. Here is where John is most profound: "*The Word was made flesh; we beheld his glory.*"

While one struggles to show that God and Jesus are the same persons, Jesus always pointed to the oneness of purpose with his Father. St. John, Chapter 17—the High Priestly Prayer—is clear evidence of oneness of purpose and unity of essence, while the "we" passages suggest a plurality of persons. This text suggests the "Oneness-in-Three" rather than a "Three-in-one", God is externally expressed in Three Persons, The Trinity!

Paul is careful not to rob God of any of His Godness, while asserting God's presence in Jesus: "*Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus*", or the Anointed Jesus, "*Who being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God,*" is further evidence of two distinct beings who possessed the same nature. If one makes God any less than God in Jesus, then one can alter the nature and power of God. With God being immutable, but will allow Himself to be incarnated in human flesh simply (not simply, but profoundly) shows the extent to which God was willing to go in search of His lost creation. He was not disguised, nor hidden from man; he became a citizen of earth, he went to church, ate with friends and sinners, paid his taxes, got tired and fell asleep. These are all human traits and mannerisms that further attest to the humanity of Jesus. Jesus is the Christ of God, the only begotten Son of God, The Messiah, revealed in human flesh! The Messiah of Israel and the Soter of the Greek understanding were always humans whose task was to deliver.

*Jesus is the Christ of God, the only begotten Son of God,
The Messiah, revealed in human flesh!*

Illinois' Bookers Celebrate Fifty Years

by Dr. David A. Hall Sr.

DECEMBER 25, 1954, A YOUNG, beautiful couple began a commitment that has shaped the lives and ministries of hundreds. Ocie Booker took Jean A. Easter for his lovely bride. That matrimony was observed as a golden anniversary December 25, 2004, with an impressive Renewal of Vows ceremony. Bishop Willie Chambliss, Prelate of the Illinois Midwest Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction, officiated. They did not celebrate fifty wonderful years alone! Over the years, God blessed the couple with three handsome sons and eventually three daughter-in-laws and seven lovely grandchildren. Included in that celebration were members of the First Jurisdiction of Illinois Church Of God In Christ, where the Right Reverend Booker serves as prelate, along with many other well wishers.

This fifty-year anniversary gave testimony to the fact that his beloved Jean was the love of his life and his companion on the road to glory!

Bishop Booker began his gospel ministry in the Church Of God In Christ at age 22. On June 3, 1956, then-Pastor Booker founded Tabernacle Church Of God In Christ in Chicago with his wife, Jean, by his side. They shared in the founding and the successful building of the Tabernacle Christian Academy in Chicago. It has prepared children for higher education and successful living. Mother Jean has always been that essential source of strength and support needed to stay the course that turned the bishop's fledgling efforts into major opportunities. As Ocie serves the fine Illinois jurisdiction as prelate, Jean is the State Minister's Wives Alliance president, they are the ultimate power couple.

When Bishop Booker became the prelate of Illinois, he followed two great giants of the faith—the late Presiding Bishop Louis Henry Ford and Bishop Shepherd Little. His hope was to lead the saints to a new level of success. Bishop Booker's vision for the jurisdiction is reflected in the Mission Statement for the First Illinois Jurisdiction. It reads:

"We ... in conjunction with the national church are committed to working under the power, direction, and authority of

God to fulfill the Great Commission by providing a healing, caring and evangelistic ministry..." (Matthew 28:19, 20; Mark 16:15-18).

In August 2001, Bishop Booker led the First Jurisdiction's annual Holy Convocation—held at the 4,000-seat capacity Arie Crown Theater. This was the first crusade of its kind in Illinois.

The bishop lauds the accomplishments of his First Lady. Mother Jean is a woman of character and abilities. Serving as President of the State Minister's Wives Alliance demonstrates commitment as wife and mother in the Booker household. She sustains a wonderful home and is a loving grandmother. It is no wonder she is highly respected and considered an example among women as an unselfish and wise "Mother in Zion." In July 1999, Bishop

and Mrs. Booker were elected as "Parents of the Year" by the National Parent's Day Foundation. This foundation is a multi-racial, interfaith organization with affiliations in all 50 states, composed of clergy and business and community leaders to promote the celebration of parenthood as the foundation of a stable, principled society. The couple was honored in Washington,



Bishop Ocie and First Lady Jean Booker have provided a shining example of genuine love throughout their fifty years of marriage. Their family participated in their renewal of vows.

D.C., at a US Congressional reception.

The pressures of being a high-powered and well-motivated couple have been overcome by their building a well balanced and spiritual relationship. The Bookers are an example of the blessings, unity, and prosperity that can come to a family that is committed to public service, as well as to their service to God. This is a model couple that has successfully proved that it is possible to fulfill godly, family, church, and other organizational obligations.

Since 1966, Pastor Booker has served the First Jurisdiction of Illinois. He has been appointed District Superintendent, Chairman of Public Relations, State Sunday School Superintendent, Administrative Assistant and, finally, consecrated Jurisdictional Prelate. In 2004, Bishop Booker announced his candidacy for the General Board of Bishops. He is committed to Christ, the Church Of God In Christ, and his family.

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Scholarships will be awarded during the November Convocation in Memphis, Tennessee, at an annual dinner in the Peabody Hotel's Grand Ballroom.

Sweetie Jordan Lacy Celebrates 90th Birthday

by Glenda Williams-Goodson

Sweetie Jordan Lacy experienced the surprise of her life on her birthday, November 19, 2004. When she walked into the Wyndham Hotel Dallas Market Center, approximately 200 family members, friends, and well wishers from Los Angeles, Chicago, New Orleans, Houston, Oklahoma, El Paso, San Antonio, and across the Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex shouted, "Surprise!"

Her youngest daughter, Rebecca Jordan Williams, coordinated the elegant affair. Church Of God In Christ National Fine Arts Director Sara Jordan Powell sang a musical tribute to her mother, and her eldest son, sax virtuoso Samuel Jordan Jr. played, "I Did It My Way" to the delight of the crowd. Texas Northeast Supervisor Freddie Carter paid tribute in a moving poem written by Lorye Carter Reed.

Nine of Mother Lacy's twelve children sang a tribute to her—"I Will Bless Your Name." Her grandchildren and great grandchildren also wished her well as they spoke from the theme "A Virtuous Woman." Yvonne Strolger recalled Mother Lacy's work and friendship with her parents, the late Bishop and Mrs. T.D. Iglehart Sr.

The keynote speaker, Church Of God In Christ Second Assistant Presiding Bishop J. Neaul Haynes, who is her pastor, stated, "Sweetie is a godly woman. She challenges other women to do their best, which is the best way to teach. She seems to be able to get other people to do what they can do. If you observe her, it's obvious that she knows how to keep her emotions under control and that she leads an exemplary life. There is nothing immoral about her."

Mama Sweetie, as she is affectionately called, was saved on April 5, 1929. She met the love of her life, Samuel Jordan, at the Page Normal School in Hearne, Texas. After the two graduated, they married, and shortly thereafter began their family, which came to include twelve children: Wylon, Samuel, Sara, Mary, John, James, Martha, Joseph, Thaddeaus, Cassandra, Deborah, and Rebecca. They began pastoring, and Elder Samuel Jordan, a man uniquely qualified to lead, quickly became the YPWW President of the entire State of Texas. They trained their children to sing and serve the church and they traveled the country in evangelistic tours in nearly every major city in the United States, as well as Canada and Mexico. Attesting to her training her children as good citizens and churchmen, Mother Coffey said she had seen few families that size so gifted and well behaved when the family stayed briefly in the Lillian Brooks Coffey Home in Detroit.

Mother Lacy was licensed as a missionary under the leadership of Texas pioneer Mother Hannah C. Chandler, the first State Mother of Texas; Mother Bertha Polk appointed her as a District Missionary in 1941. She was the founder of Houston's Heights Religious Training Center where she educated children for twenty years. She served as Dean of the Women's Workshop for many years under Mother Emma F. Barron.

She has served as a District Missionary for fifty years, first in the North Houston District and currently in the North Dallas District, under the leadership of Bishop R.L. Asberry. She was the queen of the national district missionaries in the 1980s.



"Sweetie is a godly woman. She challenges other women to do their best, which is the best way to teach. She seems to be able to get other people to do what they can do. If you observe her, it's obvious that she knows how to keep her emotions under control and that she leads an exemplary life."

—Second Assistant Presiding Bishop J. Neaul Haynes

Chaplain Samuel F. Morgan

COGIC'S COMMISSIONER FOR MILITARY AND INSTITUTIONAL CHAPLAINS DEPARTMENT

by Calvin L. Burns

Chaplain Samuel Morgan was named Commissioner of the Military and Institutional Chaplains Department at the 2005 Leadership Conference in Atlanta, Georgia. He was one of the fifty-three national appointees who was installed during the Service of Inauguration and Installation on April 4, in Memphis, Tennessee, at Temple of Deliverance Church Of God In Christ, where our illustrious Presiding Bishop G.E. Patterson serves as pastor.

With more than 35 years of military service to America as an enlistee and Chaplain in the U.S. Navy, Chaplain Morgan retired in 2001 with the rank of Commander. This Hobbs, N.M., native was only the fourth member of the Church Of God In Christ, Inc. to serve as Navy Chaplain. In his new assignment, Chaplain Morgan will be responsible for overseeing all COGIC-sponsored chaplains who work in the marketplace at such institutions as correctional facilities and hospitals, while giving direction to those who represent the Church in the various branches of the Armed Forces.

After graduating from high school in Compton, California, Chaplain Morgan began his Navy career in the enlisted ranks. He first served as a Seabee in several Navy Mobile Construction Battalions, including a tour in Chu Lai, South Vietnam, from 1965–1976. In the 1970s, he worked for Navy Recruiting at various commands throughout Southern California.

After attending the Navy Chaplain School in Newport, R.I., in the summer of 1980, Chaplain Morgan served in a true variety of commands including USS Ajax (AR 6), USMC Mountain Warfare Training Center in Bridgeport, Calif., the 14th Coast Guard District in Honolulu, Hawaii, and several navy hospitals and naval air stations.

One career highlight for this award-winning chaplain occurred when he was selected to be the official Coast Guard chaplain representative for the funeral of *Roots* author Alex Haley (a retired Chief Journalist). Chaplain Morgan was stationed in Memphis at that time, and during his tour of duty in the Mid-



Above, top: Chaplain Samuel F. Morgan; above, lower: the Chaplain and Mrs. Marie Morgan with Presiding Bishop G.E. Patterson.

South, he attended Pentecostal Temple Institutional COGIC, where he served faithfully under the late Presiding Bishop J.O. Patterson Sr., and later, Bishop J.O. Patterson Jr.

During his tour of duty in Honolulu, Chaplain Morgan had the distinction of working with Mrs. Coretta Scott King, the widow of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. In fact, he assisted in hosting Mrs. King while she was working to establish an appropriate commemoration of Dr. King's birthday throughout both the military and civilian communities of Hawaii. Chaplain Morgan organized the Afro-American Ministerial Alliance, which worked with Mrs. King to have Hawaii become the 49th state to recognize Dr. King's birthday as a national holiday.

His numerous awards and decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal, both Navy and Coast Guard Commendation Medals, and the Humanitarian Service Medal.

He concluded his impressive tour of duty at the Naval Weapons Station in Seal Beach, Calif. One month before his retirement in 2001, America experienced the devastation of 9/11. Chaplain Morgan's response to that tragedy was to stay focused on his motto, and to write a poem entitled *A Word to All Enemies Foreign and Domestic*.

"My motto has always been, 'Live so that when people get to know you, they will get to know Christ,'" Chaplain Morgan said. "That was my goal at the Naval Weapons Station that last fateful year."

Today, Pastor Morgan is the visionary chief shepherd of Mount Olive Church Of God In Christ, located at 1385 East 21st Street, Los Angeles, California, where he has successfully pastored for five years. Mt. Olive is a member of the Southern California 3rd Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction, where First Assistant Presiding Bishop C.E. Blake is the Jurisdictional Prelate.

The New Mexico product was educated during the first portion of his formative years at Booker T. Washington Elementary School in Hobbs. He went on to attend Grambling Laboratory School, which is on the campus of Grambling College in

Grambling, Louisiana. He graduated from Compton High School in Compton, California. He holds the following degrees: AA in sociology from Pasadena City College, Pasadena, Calif.; BA and MA in Theology from Azusa Pacific University, Azusa, Calif.; and an MA from Fuller Theological Seminary, Pasadena, Calif.

Chaplain Morgan is married to the former J.

Marie Powell of Marshall, Texas. They are the loving and devoted parents of six children and seven grandchildren. Throughout the years, Mrs. Morgan has stood in full support of the Chaplain's ministry. For example, she worked closely with him in his ministerial efforts during that celebrated tour in Honolulu.

During their stay in Honolulu, Elder and Sister Morgan worked under the leadership of Bishop Carlis Moody to implement special works for our Church. First, Elder Morgan reorgan-



The Morgans founded the Lord's House COGIC in Wahiawa, Hawaii. In less than two years, God blessed this work to grow to more than 125 members.

ized the Hawaii COGIC congregations and military chapel into a district, which has now become the Hawaii Jurisdiction. Second, the Morgans founded The Lord's House COGIC in Wahiawa, Hawaii. In less than two years, God blessed this work to grow to more than 125 members.

Yes, Elder Morgan is an anointed and visionary leader. He has not allowed

his many impressive accomplishments to cause him to lose focus on the ministry that God has given him, nor his fervent love for the Church Of God In Christ. It is obvious to the staff of *The Whole Truth* that with God being Chaplain Morgan's helper, the Church Of God In Christ, Inc. Military and Institutional Chaplains Department will experience tremendous growth under his leadership.

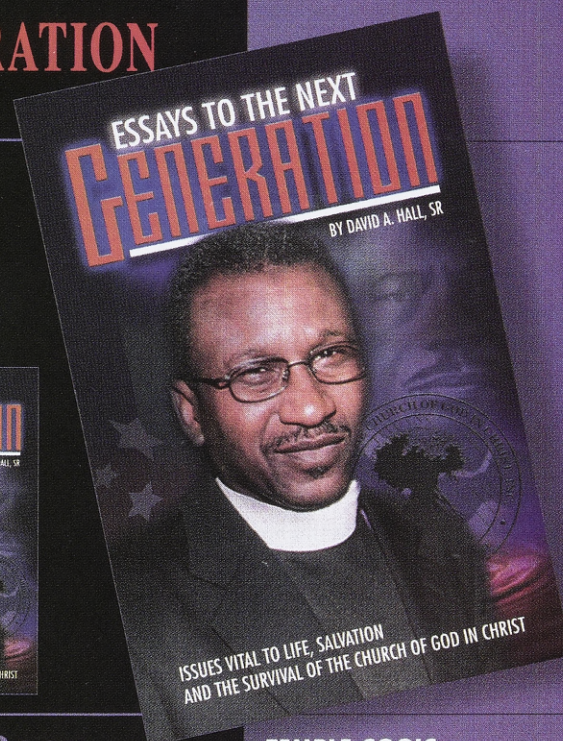
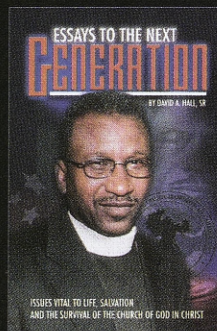
"My motto has always been, 'Live so that when people get to know you, they will get to know Christ,'" Chaplain Morgan said. "That was my goal at the Naval Weapons Station that last fateful year."

ESSAYS TO THE NEXT GENERATION

By David A. Hall, Sr

TEN ESSAYS TO THE PRESENT AND COMING GENERATIONS ON ISSUES VITAL TO LIFE, SALVATION AND THE SURVIVAL OF THE CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST

1. WHY THE ELECTION OF 2000 WAS THE MOST IMPORTANT SINCE 1968
2. TITHING: SOURCE OF REVENUE FOR LOCAL AND NATIONAL CHURCH
3. STEM CELL RESEARCH: MURDER OR MEDICINE?
4. ABORTION: IMMORAL DECISION AND THE COGIC RESPONSE
5. CAN WE SAVE THIS ORGANIZATION? EFFECTIVE GENERAL SUPERINTENDENCY
6. INTERRELATING WITH THE COGIC JUDICIARY BOARD
7. ECUMENICAL RELATIONS: AN EMERGING POLICY
8. GAY RIGHTS! RESPONSE OF THE SANCTIFIED CHURCH
9. WOMEN'S ORDINATION, HAS ITS TIME COME?
10. WARI AND COGIC CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTION



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Missionary Turns Personal Tragedy into National Ministry

by Calvin L. Burns

SHE IS A DEVOTED MOTHER of two children, and a licensed missionary in the Church Of God In Christ. Missionary Carole Hogan-Williams is a typical sanctified mom. Yes, she made it a priority in raising her daughter, Rachel, and her son, David, to emphasize the importance of living a Holy life. Church attendance was mandatory, and there were those special activities in Sunshine Band and Purity Class. Then, one fateful day in 1999, Missionary Hogan-Williams had to come to grips with a shivering despondency. David had been involved in an automobile accident that took the life of a state trooper. He was charged with DUI that resulted in an accidental vehicular death, and would have to pay his debt to society. The dedicated missionary did not want to be overwhelmed by the fact that she was a saint who had a child in prison. She shared her concerns with the Saints of COGIC and asked for their prayers. Soon, she discovered that she was not alone in this crisis; scores of saints in her jurisdiction and hundreds of others across the country shared her pain. This discovery fueled the vision that propelled S.K.I.P.—an acronym for Saints' Kids in Prison. Initially a local community outreach initiative, S.K.I.P. has evolved into a national prison ministry.

"The Saints' Kids in Prison Ministry was founded in September 1999, with the purpose of getting the Gospel of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, into the prisons of America," recalled Missionary Hogan-Williams, who serves as S.K.I.P.'s president. "This outreach ministry is targeted towards the many saints' children who are incarcerated from coast to coast in the United States and many foreign countries," she continued.

Missionary Hogan-Williams is a member of North End COGIC in Detroit, where Supt. Willie B. Toone is pastor. North End is part of the 2nd Jurisdiction of Southwest Michigan. Bishop Earl J. Wright is the anointed and visionary Jurisdictional

Prelate of Southwest Michigan's 2nd Jurisdiction, and the saintly Mother Frances Curtis serves as Supervisor. In 1999, Missionary Hogan-Williams was participating in a jurisdictional meeting at the time of her son's arrest. She reminisced with *The Whole Truth* how God revealed to her that David had caused the fatal accident.

"I was home in bed, and suddenly I was moved to turn on the television," she remembered. "A news bulletin reported that a state trooper had been killed ... and it was the result of a DUI. I already felt troubled in my spirit ... any mother can relate to what I was experiencing. After hearing that news report, God revealed to me that it was David. I went through a period of denial, until I received a call around 3 p.m., and was told David was the driver."

Missionary Hogan-Williams added that she made the announcements and observations at the jurisdictional meeting, and was inspired to use that venue to tell the saints about her son. The dialogue started with the statement, "I am going to tell you something." Later scores of saints would come to her with words of comfort and the revelation that they, too, had children in the penal system. Those striking disclosures spurred discussions concerning the need to have a prison ministry that reaches out to the saints' children.

"The Saints' Kids in Prison is a ministry aimed at addressing the many natural and spiritual needs of our children," she explained. "The prisons are

filled with children of the saints, primarily because of crimes related to alcohol and drugs. Did we mess up? We took them to Sunday School! They were active in the Sunshine Band, Purity Class, and attended church services from eleven-o'clock until. What went wrong?" she asked.

Although those were rhetorical questions, Missionary Hogan-Williams responded to her own query by citing a crucial need to evangelize inmates whose parents are members of the



"The SAINTS' KIDS IN PRISON Ministry was ... with the purpose of getting the Gospel of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, into the prisons of America."

—Missionary Hogan-Williams
S.K.I.P. President

"The prisons are filled with children of the saints, primarily because of crimes related to alcohol and drugs. Did we mess up? We took them to Sunday School! They were active in the Sunshine Band, Purity Class, and attended church services from eleven-o'clock until. What went wrong?"

"We at S.K.I.P. believe that God's grace to touch and to transform human hearts is the only way to reach our children who are incarcerated," [Missionary Hogan-Williams] said. "We must not remain unmindful of the example of Jesus who urges upon us a teaching of forbearance in the face of evil, which is in the Gospel of Matthew ..."

Church Of God In Christ. "Our children need to be born again by the Power of God," she observed. "We must be a visible part of the prison system by being inside the prisons and teaching the word of God."

S.K.I.P.'s president added that her organization has formed partnerships with other Christian groups that have a national prison ministry. Through these collaborations, S.K.I.P. is providing the following services:

- 1) Purchasing KJV Bibles for distribution in prisons across America.
- 2) Purchasing Gospel tracts and booklets for the prisoners.
- 3) Making sure the prisoners who have drug problems are enrolled in some type of program that addresses their problem.
- 4) Writing letters of encouragement to prisoners.
- 5) Established a pipeline of various avenues of employment, to assist prisoners who have been released to secure jobs. This includes providing transportation.

Missionary Hogan-Williams noted that some of the prisoners never receive letters or telephone calls from their families. She added that unfortunately, some families reject that member who has been incarcerated, which causes the prisoner to become withdrawn from his only contact with the Church.

"We at S.K.I.P. believe that God's grace to touch and to transform human hearts is the only way to reach our children who are incarcerated," she said. "We must not remain unmindful of the example of Jesus who urges upon us a teaching of forbearance in the face of evil, which is in the Gospel of Matthew, 5:38-42, and forgiveness of injuries, which Matthew addresses in 18:21-35."

Missionary Hogan-Williams commended Presiding Bishop G.E. Patterson for his innovative leadership, and his announced plans to get the Church Of God In Christ involved in the rehabilitation of prisoners. She stated her desire for S.K.I.P. to be a part of the Church Of God In Christ's national prison ministry.

"I've been very much impressed with Presiding Bishop G.E. Patterson's efforts to ensure that the Church Of God In Christ is in the forefront of cutting edge ministry for the 21st century," she said. "For example, his placing significance on our ministers and missionaries teaching the same points of doctrine was very much needed. We all should be on the same page when it comes to teaching our doctrine. And, I was encouraged to hear of his plans to establish a rehabilitation component in the national prison ministry ... rehabilitation is a key focus for S.K.I.P., and we

would be honored to be included in any discussions with the Presiding Bishop on how we could help in that area."

Additionally, Missionary Hogan-Williams shared her vision with *The Whole Truth* about starting the rehabilitation process of our children while they are still in prison. She reiterated the need to have COGIC ministers and missionaries inside the prisons sharing God's plan of deliverance. She also shared her thoughts about having a half-way house for our children once they are released from prison.

"Sixty percent of the (Black) young men who are in prison become (Black) Muslims when they return to society, because the (Nation of Islam) Muslims are inside the prisons. Again, I agree with Presiding Bishop G.E. Patterson, this is fertile ground for the Church Of God In Christ," she said. "Establishing a housing facility for our young men and women when they are released from prison would be a tremendous help in their readjustment back into society."

Missionary Hogan-Williams noted that there are a number of religious-supported half-way houses across the nation. She respectfully suggested that the Saints Academy campus in Lexington, Mississippi, would be an ideal site for such a facility for the Church Of God In Christ.

Reaching today's youth of COGIC via effective teaching is also an important area of ministry for Missionary Hogan-Williams. In teaching her Purity Class, she utilizes various visual aids to emphasize the vital role that obeying the Holy Word of God plays in living the life of a law abiding citizen. Whether it's a discussion on premarital sex or an alternative life style, this visionary woman of God often makes use of such visual aids as a mock cadaver to reinforce what God has to say concerning the issue.

"Our teaching must be both relevant and applicable, if we are going to reach today's youth," she said. "I thank God for my pastor, Supt. Willie B. Toone, who is indeed on the cutting edge of ministry for the 21st century, and stands in full support of my ministry."

Another component of Missionary Hogan-Williams' ministry calls for developing a support group for single mothers who have children in prison. This group would be a tool for winning souls for Christ, she said. Meanwhile, she remains committed to being a loving and supportive mother for her son, David, who has paid his debt to society and is very active in the Church, and to her daughter, Rachel, an architect living in Atlanta, Georgia.

For additional information about S.K.I.P., you may contact Missionary Hogan-Williams at (734) 487-7311.

God's End-Time General

By Missionary Patricia Ann Stanley, Instructor of English, Jackson State University

Member, Greater Love Temple COGIC, Jackson, Mississippi

God is raising up a mighty army of soldiers who are not afraid to do battle with the enemy. This group of soldiers is a new breed, radical in their beliefs and passionate in their devotion. They are known as the youth of the Church. Surprised? Well, youths have always played a role in the Church, but today's youths are no longer in the background. They have emerged to the forefront and are making great strides in helping to build the kingdom of God. One such youth is Jeremy Dennis, God's End-time General.

Jeremy, son, of Prophetess Sandra Dennis, is a member of Love Temple Church Of God In Christ in Jackson, Mississippi, where his grandfather, Elder George Dennis, is pastor. He is an awesome young man who is intelligent, courageous, and anointed. Like a general, Jeremy is brilliant. The mark of his brilliance was first seen in childhood. Jeremy was a remarkable child. His ability to grasp information baffled many. By the age of three, Jeremy had already begun reciting scriptures.

In the informal setting of his grandparents' living-room, he gave his first sermon, entitled, "The Lord Is My Shepherd." Although it was mostly a recitation of Psalm 23:1, Jeremy said that it was his sermon and spoke with such authority that the presence of God was ushered into the room. Surely God was leading Jeremy.

Upon entering school, his teachers soon realized that he was gifted and anointed. Therefore, he was often called upon to lead. Throughout elementary and middle school, Jeremy excelled as an honor scholar, receiving many academic and social awards. One of his distinguished achievements consisted of assisting in the development of the English syllabus for eight graders at Siwell



Jeremy Dennis is an inspiring example for other youths.

Middle School.

Now a sophomore at Forest High School, his high scholastic achievement continues. He is a 400 Club (for those who score 400 on standardized tests) and National Honor Society member, and is a high honor roll recipient, a first-place physics science fair recipient, a participant in the Special Research Program for eleventh- and twelfth-graders, and a nominee for the MNASA Science Award.

Jeremy is courageous and radical. His position as offensive lineman on his school's football team helps him to exhibit the true general that he is. When faced with constant peer pressure because of his radical faith, he confronts opposition without wavering and demonstrates to his teammates the love of Jesus, often resulting in their surrendering. He is respected and sought out for his radical stand for Christ.

Not only is Jeremy an example in school, he is an anointed young general for other youths at his church. Because of his influence, youths are striving to live better lives. Jeremy leads by example. He is a junior deacon and a past Y.P.W.W. president. God has anointed him. When given the opportunity to speak, he does so with such authority and divine revelation that those who hear him are inspired.

Jeremy is saved and filled with the Holy Ghost. Yes, he loves God. He says, "God has blessed me to be a vessel for His use, and I want to be who He wants me to be." His favorite scripture is Jeremiah 29:11 - *For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the Lord, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.*

The Whole Truth salutes Jeremy Dennis, an anointed vessel for God. Yes, he is *God's End-time General!*

Charles Harrison Mason Theological Seminary

Atlanta, Georgia - The Charles Harrison Mason Theological Seminary family celebrated the graduate school's 34th Founder's Day February 23-24. *A Sure Foundation for Turbulent Times*, Matthew 7: 24-27, was the theme for the two-day event. The keynote speakers for this year's observance were General Board Member Bishop Jerry Macklin; Chairman of the General Council of Pastors and Elders, Superintendent Derrick W. Hutchins; and the Jurisdictional Supervisor for Tennessee's Fourth Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction, Mother Lee Ella Smith. The community-wide evening worship service was conducted at the Cathedral of Faith Church Of God In Christ, where the seminary's interim dean, Elder Arthur F. Mosley, is pastor. The Founder's Day Convocation was held on campus and the Sheraton Gateway Hotel was the site for the 34th Annual Founder's Day Banquet.

Charles Harrison Mason Theological Seminary is part of a theological consortium known as the Interdenominational Theological Center (ITC). The five other member seminaries are: Morehouse School of Religion (Baptist), Phillips' School of Theology (C.M.E.), Gammon Theological Seminary (United Methodist), Turner Theological Seminary (A.M.E.) and Johnson C. Smith Theological Seminary (Presbyterian USA).

Superintendent Hutchins was the speaker for the Wednesday night community-wide service. The articulate Chairman of the General Council of Pastors and Elders brought a profound word from Ephesians 1: 3, 7, 13. This distinguished minister of the Gospel enlightened the entire audience as he spoke from the theme *Framing Our Witness in Watermark Margins*. The visionary and dynamic Bishop Jerry Macklin had an awesome word in his role as Founder's Day Convocation speaker. Bishop Macklin indeed stirred the house as he spoke from Nehemiah 1:4, and the theme *Nothing Changes Until Change*. The gracious Supervisor of the Tennessee Fourth, Mother Lee Ella Smith, brought an inspiring address at the 34th Annual Founder's Day Banquet. Mother Smith's theme was *A Sure Foundation*. Her text was taken from Matthew 7:24.

In the awards segment of the observance, Bishop Larry Shaw, Prelate of Georgia's First Southern Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction, was named the recipient of the 2005 Distinguished Alumni Award. Mother Barbara McCoo Lewis received the prestigious Lizzie Woods Robinson Award. Mother Lewis is married to Supt. Dr. James A. Lewis, founding pastor of the New Antioch COGIC in Los Angeles, and was selected to serve as Jurisdictional Supervisor by Bishop Charles Blake in May of 1988. She received her appointment as Jurisdictional Supervisor from Dr. Mattie McGlothen in November of 1988. She serves the National Department of Women under the leadership of Mother Willie Mae Rivers in the following capacities: Executive Board member, General Supervisor's Regional Representative Board member, International Marshal, Chairperson Program Committee, and Chairperson Special Convention Assistance Committee. She is also a member of the Board of Trustees at C.H. Mason Theological Seminary. Other honorees included Elder Levi Willis III, who was named Student of the Year, and Mr. Calvin Dorton, who received the C.H. Mason Distinguished Leadership Award.

Charles Harrison Mason Theological Seminary is a graduate theological school designed to prepare men and women of faith for leadership in the church and society. Initial planning for our seminary began in 1965. The late Second Senior Bishop O.T. Jones Sr. played a crucial role in directing the leadership of COGIC in those opening discussions. However, it was not until the late First Presiding Bishop J.O. Patterson Sr. got involved in the negotiations that authorization was granted by the General Assembly, making it possible for our seminary to become the sixth constituency on the campus of ITC. The seminary is named in honor of our Founding Bishop and Father, Bishop C.H. Mason, and is hailed as the First African-American-accredited Pentecostal seminary in America.



Bishop Charles Harrison Mason

Evangelist Eleanor Johnson-Quinitchette

by Calvin L. Burns

THE SAINTS OF POWER HOUSE CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST of Roosevelt, N.Y., paid tribute to Evangelist Eleanor Johnson-Quinitchette on Saturday, April 16th, and Sunday, April 17th, as this legendary woman of God celebrated her 85th birthday. Dr. Raymond Cook is the anointed and visionary pastor at Power House COGIC. Dr. Cook, a highly regarded community and spiritual leader, obviously went to great lengths to ensure that the honoree was given an observance that was indicative of her commitment to excellence in serving humankind. Representatives from every segment of the community were on hand to salute Evangelist Johnson-Quinitchette for more than six decades of exemplary service to the Kingdom of God via the Church Of God In Christ.

Saturday's special worship celebration observance was highlighted with a powerful sermon by Bishop James Williams, pastor of Humbleway COGIC. Additional highlights included stirring selections from the New York University Gospel Choir and the Powerhouse COGIC Band.

Pastor Elder Stanley Cornish of Baltimore, Maryland, preached the saints to their feet on Sunday, as he gave the keynote address. Selections from the honoree's great-grand children, the Cook family, and a special reading by Sister Joan Dudley provided a radiant uplift at this illuminating birthday celebration worship service.

Evangelist Eleanor Johnson-Quinitchette was born the seventh child to a loving union in Burgaw, N.C., where her mother was known throughout the town for conducting payer services in her home. She was married to the late Willie Johnson for 35 years, and into this union was born her only child, Davis J. Johnson-Cook.

Evangelist Johnson-Quinitchette was saved in 1945 under the late J.H. Smith, where she worked faithfully as a Deaconess in her local church. One year later, she was licensed as a Missionary. In addition, she served with distinction as president of the Missionary Circle, vice president of the Youth Department, Pastor's Aide leader, and Sunday School teacher.

Career highlights and honors include serving in the North Shore District as President of the Evangelist Board and many other auxiliaries under the leadership of District Missionary Rosie Williams; being appointed State Sunday School Field Worker for Eastern New York; being licensed as a National Evangelist under the late Mother Madie

Payton; conducting numerous revivals throughout New York State and the East coast; working a mission in Barbados, West Indies; receiving her appointment as District Missionary of the Progressive District (1971), where she served with joy and great vision for the up-building of God's work; overseeing the growth of the Progressive District from four to nine churches with Supt. D.H. Green; working as an organizer and coordinator for the International Women's Department; receiving numerous awards for outstanding achievements; and serving God graciously as a major financial backer in the construction of five COGIC churches.

Evangelist Eleanor Johnson-Quinitchette was assigned by the late Jurisdictional Prelate Bishop O.M. Kelly to assist Dr. Raymond Cook at the Powerhouse COGIC, where she continues to serve. During her 15 years of dedicated service at Power House, she married Elder Leonard Quinitchette, who is now deceased. She continues to worship the Lord in the Beauty of Holiness at Power House along with her five grandchildren, Raymond Navarro, an architect; Dr. Jan Keith, a podiatrist; Tyrone, a paralegal and contractor; Jeanine Cook-Garard, an associate professor of nursing; and Jamel, a senior at NYU, studying math education. Her five great-grandchildren are Tyrone, Caleb, Nailah, Joshua, and Asher.

This distinguished family represents five generations of membership in the Church Of God In Christ, Inc. Ladies and Gentlemen, Sisters and Brothers, it is an esteemed honor for the staff of *The Whole Truth* to say, "God bless you, Evangelist Eleanor Johnson-Quinitchette on your 85th birthday. For all that you have done, are doing, and will continue to do, this *Whole Truth* salute is especially for you!"



Evangelist Eleanor Johnson-Quinitchette

Expressions

through Words and Sound

Sister Valerie Debuts New CD with "Valerie Hutchinson"

This self-titled freshman CD is Sister Valerie's dream come true. You will close your eyes as you listen to *Return To Me*. Her voice, rich with surrender as He uses her to minister in song, is a welcome listen on the way to work. For more information, please write her at 1218 Louisiana Street, Panama City, FL 32401 or call (850) 763-8538.

Dr. David Hall, Publishing Board CEO, Writes to Next Generation

In his new book, *Essays to the Next Generation*, Dr. David Hall journeys where few have dared in print. In tackling subjects such as *Abortion: Immoral Decision* and *COGIC Response*, he posits abortion as being both a social and moral dilemma, and that Church of God in Christ members must know and understand its history and implications. In essay number 9, *Women's Ordination (Has It's Time Come)*, he rehearses the evolution of the discussion within the church and writes, "for future generations to believe the doctrine and discipline of the Church were practiced faithfully, this essay was written." The book is worth the purchase price for thinking individuals who would read the ten essays and add to the discourse. For information contact Dr. David Hall Sr. (901) 744-0477.

When Heaven Went Public: the Stock Market Parable

This stock market parable will clarify the benefits of investing in stocks and in the Kingdom of God. Author Catrice Wells uses personal stories—some humorous—to emphasize the correlation between spiritual and financial principles. True life stories illustrate how generational blessings can come for those who fully commit their life to the Lord, but on the other hand, there are stories of the disastrous results when one plays with God.

A business idea always starts as a private investment; once a business is incorporated, shares are issued in exchange for money. Going public allows a company to raise substantial amounts of money for expansion projects or to pay off debt. Once a company is public anyone can purchase shares. Heaven was first privately held and only available to the Jews, then God sent Jesus Christ to complete a public offering (IPO) on the cross so that all could invest their life in the Kingdom of God. God uses our life to build his kingdom and in return, he makes us joint heirs of Heaven.

Included is an insightful test for the reader to determine their risk tolerance for investing and their risk tolerance for life's temptations. There is also a section for the reader to complete a financial and spiritual assessment of their personal life. A helpful glossary of investment terms is located at the back of the book.

Wells has been a stockbroker with major Wall Street investment firms for more than 12 years, including A. G. Edwards & Sons, as Head Stock Trader and Mutual Fund Coordinator for private money manager Louis Holland. She is a regular CNN and "Wall Street with Louis Rukyser" guest, Research Analyst for Zacks Investment Research, and later as a financial executive for Citibank in Chicago, Ill. She founded her own NASD and SEC member firm, Johnson Wells Investments, Inc. Throughout her years in the investment industry she has been a popular television and radio correspondent and host for various stock market programs, including Chicago's UPN television program "The Stock Market Observer: Ask an Expert". She also conducts investment seminars and workshops for churches and other organizations. Currently, she works as the assistant financial advisor for the Church of God in Christ, Inc. investment portfolio in Memphis, Tenn. In August 2001, she received a six-figure job offer to work with a business colleague located at the World Trade Center in New York City. She initially accepted the position in New York with a start date of the first week of September 2001. After praying, she felt a warning from the Lord regarding her move, telling her that an event would occur that would impact the world, and accepting the position would place her in the middle of it all. Though she did not fully understand, she changed her decision and stayed in Chicago. Two weeks after declining the job offer, the 9/11 terrorist attack occurred.

Catrice Wells has been a Christian since age five. After graduating from a private college preparatory high school in New Lenox, Ill., she attended Oral Roberts University in Tulsa, Okla., receiving a B. S. in finance. She worked on staff for Oral Roberts' daily television program, "Expect a Miracle." She was a recipient of the Charles Harrison Mason Scholarship. She has worked as a missionary in Ghana, West Africa, and in Mexico, and has been a delegate and member of the Model United Nations Committee for Economic and Finance. A native of Illinois, Catrice has worked with youth groups and served as church organist and pianist.

Elder Mack C. Mason's History Book Details COGIC History in Illinois

Elder Mack C. Mason's *Saints in the Land of Lincoln* is an invaluable scholarship of the history of the Church of God in Christ in Illinois. Subtitled *The Urban Development of a Pentecostal Denomination and the Birth of the Gospel Music Industry*, this book is a must for those interested in COGIC history and music. It includes of the work of Illinois pioneer Bishop William Roberts with many photos, including gospel greats including Rosetta Tharpe and James Lenox. For information write to Pastor Mack Mason in care of Faithday Press, P.O. Box 474, Hazel Crest, IL 60429.

COGIC

on the move

By Glenda Williams-Goodson

{ NEWS FROM ACROSS THE BROTHERHOOD }

WORLD WAR II VETERAN SERVED UNDER GENERAL GEORGE S. PATTON

Eighty three year old Pastor Willie Jones was 22 when the Alabama draft called. He toured in North Africa and Europe under General George S. Patton, entering France through Omaha Beach fourteen days after D-Day. Although he never received a Purple Heart, he was wounded when a bullet tore his calf during combat. He rose to the rank of Corporal by the end of the war but when he returned to the states, he was told to get on the back of the bus. His family recently presented him with a birthday trip to Washington where he visited the War Memorial, and many memories of the segregated nation were forever erased. His wife, Supervisor Berniece Jones (Kentucky First), says the father of 10 has had many trials but does not let negativity bother him. Elder Jones is Pastor of Life Line Temple COGIC in Elizabethtown and House of Refuge COGIC in Bowling Green. He says when the family (10 children, 17 grandchildren, and other relatives) arrived in Washington, people came up to him, shaking his hands and taking photos with him, "like I was a celebrity. God wiped the slate clean."

GHANA BUILDS CHURCH

The saints of Ghana had been out of fellowship for a number of years before Chaplain Marva Cromartie placed the following announcement on the radio: "If you are a COGIC member please contact ...". After getting the bishop's name from Bishop Carlis Moody, Bishop Badioo was contacted and the membership is growing. A church has been built and Dr. Moses Harris of Tacoma, Washington, is translating Sunday School lessons into French. According to Chaplain Cromartie, there is a great need for Sunday School books, instruments, and sponsors for the school for refugee children (one year's tuition totals \$300-\$400). Please pray for Bishop Badioo who is ill. For information send email to Chaplainc1973@aol.com.

TRINIDAD & TOBAGO JURISDICTION DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN

Trinidad and Tabago - The 3rd Annual Women's Convention under the newly organized jurisdiction convened September 22-25, 2004. Mother Margaret Moore Jurisdictional Supervisor of Women & Convention President welcomed the saints, including five American Delegates to the newly purchased sanctuary of Deliverance Assembly COGIC in San Juan, Pastor Supt. Winston Waldron. The second night led the saints to the Southern part of Trinidad to Faith Christian Fellowship COGIC,

Pastor Supt. David Lewis. Friday night, all roads led to Greater Malabar Christian Centre COGIC in Arima, the Jurisdictional headquarters where Bishop Herbert Joseph Griffith is pastor. The special guest speaker was a Trinidad local, Evangelist Nicole Balloosingh Holder, a world-renowned gospel artist and preacher extraordinaire. Hundreds crowded the altar and were blessed by the anointing of this powerful woman of God.

The Trinidad and Tobago Jurisdiction has grown to include the Faith Christian Fellowship Orphanage, the Women's Department Scholarship Program, and Adopt A Church (many churches are in need of remodeling, various musical instruments, new Sunday School literature, YPWW literature, and Bible Band topics). For information about visiting Trinidad and Tobago or to find out how you can help the ministries or become a resident missionary, please write to Mother Margaret Moore, P. O. Box 961813, Riverdale, GA 30296. Make donations payable to Faith Christian Fellowship Church. You may contact Pastor David Lewis directly at 1-868-647-3549 or visit his Web site at: <http://www.members.tripod.com/trinidadwomencogic>

MOTHER LEE VAN ZANDT PRAISES GOD FOR ANOTHER YEAR OF BRAZILIAN MINISTRY

Brazil - Mother Van Zandt writes, "We started out in January 2004 with our very first Jurisdictional AIM, which convened in Saracurna, RJ. We also had our Installation Service for our Prelate, Bishop Samuel Moore. Second Assistant Presiding Bishop Charles Blake, Bishop Charles Brown, Supt. James Whitehead, Supt. Derrick Huthchins, Supt. Stinny Powell, Supt. Anderson, Elder Curtis Taylor, and a large delegation from Southern California were with us. Bishop Blake performed the ceremony. There was TV and news coverage of the event.

Some of the American Delegates toured a portion of our properties: The Missionary House, which has five bedrooms, three baths, kitchen and dining room. Missionary Booker, our Resident Missionary, lives there when she is in the country. Our Orphanage Property has two buildings on it. They also visited several churches that the Lord has blessed us to build and some which are in the process of being built. Also present were Dr. Roane, Chairman of our AIM Convention, and his wife, Evangelist Sims from California. Dr. Roane also conducted a Medical Clinic.

Our next Conference was our Victory Over Wounds Women's Conference, held at Temple Of Love, the Mother Church in San Paulo, on March 24-28, 2004. My assistant, Dr.

Faye Ellis Butler and her daughter, Dr. Esther Butler; District Missionary Vertis Griffin, Evangelist Brenda Johnson, Elder Curtis Taylor, Missionary Beatrice Booker, Bishop Moore, and I were the United States delegates. I was able to visit three states and conduct Women's workshops.

On July 26, we were back in the country for Our Holy Convocation. In San Paulo, our guest list included Eld. Albert Williams, Eld. Curtis Taylor, Dr. Terence Meritt, Missionary Latonga Jackson, Diane Carter, Supt. Derrick Hutchins, Missionary Beatrice Booker, and Bishop Moore. Dr. Meritt preached powerfully on the Holy Ghost, with over twenty-five individuals receiving that precious gift. Supt. Hutchins preached the official message: *God Will Finish What He Started in You!* It was tremendous.

For information about opportunities to support a child, sponsor a youth in school, sponsor a pastor, or help with the orphanage, please contact Mother Lee Van Zandt, PO Box 24, Vienna, Md. 21869, or e-mail mo_vanzandt@yahoo.com or visit <http://www.cogicbrazil.Homestead.com/BrazilNeeds.html> or <http://www.cogicbrazil.Homestead.com/BrazilWomensDepartment.html>

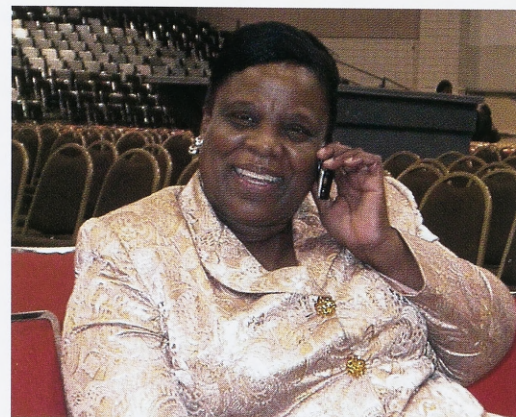
MINISTER LAUNCHES POETRY MAGAZINE

Kalamazoo, MI - *To God Be The Glory!*, a bi-monthly magazine devoted to lifting up the name Jesus Christ through the gift of poetry, made its debut April 5, 2005, and is now accepting submissions. For information contact CHRIST-SANOINTEDONE@yahoo.com or write to Reynolds INK, Attn: M.J. Reynolds, 525 N. Arlington #D-2, Kalamazoo, MI 49006.

SUPT. JAMES E. JORDAN LEADS REFRESHING SPRINGS CHURCH TO NEW VISTAS

Riverdale, MD - The powerful ministry Refreshing Springs Church of God in Christ, birthed sixty years ago by Bishop A.D. Headen, continues to dynamically impact the region through his son in the gospel and former Assistant Pastor, Supt. Jordan (Jurisdictional Prelate, Bishop J. Neaul Haynes, Washington, D.C., Jurisdiction).

In addition to serving as chief shepherd of over one thousand members, Supt. Heard leads three satellite churches and fifty-plus ministry outlets including a Bible Institute, youth leadership academy, ESL classes and spring camp, and two 5013c organizations—Sowing Empowerment and Economic Development (S.E.E.D), providing food, clothing, and shelter



Send your newsworthy **COGIC On The Move** information to Glenda Williams-Goodson at the Church of God In Christ Publishing House, 2500 Lamar Avenue, Memphis, TN 38114.

to individuals transitioning from dependency to self sufficiency; and the Spring of Life Wellness Center (www.solwc.org). The center is a full service health center, managed by a nurse practitioner, serving adults aged 18 and over. It also serves as triage for the area hospital, non-emergency patients, and focuses on prevention.

Supt. Jordan's pastor's heart is evidenced by the care he bestows on each of his constituency. For instance, when the church's award winning Soldiers for Christ drill team competed in '04, he was among the sixty members of the church wearing t-shirts and cheering his team on. To speak with Supt. Jordan or First Lady Wilhemina Jordan, please call (301) 277-2020 or visit www.rscogic.org.

EVANGELISTS MINISTER IN SOUTH AFRICA

South Africa-Evangelists Romanetha Stallworth and Hattie Mentor traveled to South Africa in February. They first visited the 15th Annual Holy Convocation in Kimberly, where International Missions President Bishop Carlis Moody is Prelate and Mother Monica Mngadi is Supervisor.

They brought with them over 500 pounds of goods, clothing, children's vitamins, cough medicine, pain remedies, Bibles, and children's books donated by the saints of Kentucky First (Bishop A.T. Moore and Supervisor Bernice Jones).

From Kimberly, they traveled to Tembisa, where they spent time with Elder Vincent Matthews and his family, resident missionaries who reside in the COGIC Missions House there. Elder Matthews (who is from Port Huron, Michigan—Bishop Isaac King and Mother Loretta Hogan Whitsett) is the pastor of a church that is growing by leaps and bounds. He has distributed over 20,000 tracts in the area and the church is on fire! They ask that the saints pray for them. They are currently in a financial drive to obtain transportation for themselves and the church, which you can support by sending your check, payable to Missions For All Nations, Post Office Box 610056, Port Huron MI 48060-0056, or call (586) 228-2245.

The evangelists then traveled to Quaqua, where they conducted revival services distributing tracts and ministering along the way. They met with three Quaqua students whom Evangelist Stallworth sponsors to attend the University of Johannesburg.

EVANGELIST LILLIE GRAY SENDS GREETINGS TO THE SAINTS

Memphis-Evangelist Lillie Gray of Greater Community Church Of God In Christ (Supt. Brandon Porter, Pastor) worked for many years for the Housing Department of the Church Of God In Christ. After leaving that position in 1997, she went back to school and completed her Master's Degree in counseling and Christian education. In 2003, she received her Doctoral Degree in Christian counseling psychology. She says that God did just what He planned for her life in the ministry and she is yet seeking to be used of Him. For speaking engagements, write to her at 2394 Perry Road, Memphis, TN 38106 or call (901) 946-1067.

CONGRATULATIONS TO DR. AILEEN STINGLEY ON OPENING NEW OFFICE

Jackson, Mississippi - COGIC constituents know Dr. Aileen Stingley as Chair of the C.H. Mason Foundation, where she has blessed many students in furthering their college education. Since 1991, she has also used her profession as a dentist to minister through providing oral health care services to the indigent. Recently a fourth grader boy told her that everyone was against him, and she responded that God loves him, a message she shares with many who pass through her practice.

Now a graduate of the University of Mississippi School of Dentistry (she also holds a Master's in Public Health), Dr. Stingley has extended her practice. "For Teeth Sake" is housed in a 1700 square-foot office in the Northpark Mall—the largest mall in Jackson—with anchor stores that include Dillards, Bombay, and J.C. Penny. "During prayer, the Lord revealed to me that I was to extend my services in a nontraditional setting. When I went in to negotiate my lease, I was the only female present in a room full of powerful men ... I felt no fear, but felt I had the authority." The office opened in mid-April. Contact Dr. Stingley at (601) 362-0855 or stingley.coc@bellsouth.net

A MACEDONIA CALL FROM CANADA

Ontario - Elder Wayne Channer and the saints in Canada invite you to help them build the work in that area. Bishop Carlis Moody has decided to continue the inroads into developing the

COGIC work in Canada that started with the re-establishment of two former COGIC Canadian Jurisdictions: Western Canada, under Bishop Designate Ralph Jefferson of Long Island NY, and Nova Scotia, under Bishop Designate Roderick Wilson of Connecticut (also serves as Region 10 Missions Director). The Lighthouse Church of the Apostle (Ontario), under the leadership of Elder Wayne Channer, will serve as the spring board in establishing COGIC churches in eastern Ontario—an area unexplored by COGIC. (Bishop Vinnel Channer served COGIC from 1968 to 1988 as a district Superintendent before starting his organization in 1991. After taking over the work in 1991 due to his father's illness, Elder Channer rejoined the COGIC with two churches in Metro Toronto. Three more churches have approached him upon hearing he was affiliated with the COGIC. Please write to Elder Channer at wchanner0921@rogers.com for more information.

Also from Canada, Canadian Bishop Designate R.L. Jefferson of Western Canada is slated for consecration on the 24th of May. For information, call the church at (631) 286-9424

PROPHETESS USED BY GOD TO HEAL IN FT. LAUDERDALE

Tullahoma, Tenn. - Prophetess Sharon Seay-Eiland recently returned from Ft. Lauderdale, where the Holy Ghost was present to heal, set free emotionally, and deliver women from as far away as London.

Prophetess Seay-Eiland is a member of the Revival Center Family COGIC, where her brother, Elder Dedrick Seay, is pastor (Bishop Felton Smith, Jurisdictional Prelate). Licensed as an evangelist in 1987 under the leadership of Pastor Derrick Hutchins, she was licensed by the COGIC as an International Evangelist in 2004. She was born and raised in the COGIC and served as her mother's personal aide, the late Supervisor Margaret Seay of Tennessee Eastern First Jurisdiction. This appointed and anointed speaker has ministered in Juanita Bynum's Weapons of Power Conference where she shared the message of holiness and living right to over 40,000 people. Saying she is sold out to holiness, she has taken that same message to the West Indies, the Bahamas, and across the United States.

To experience the dynamic ministry of Prophetess Seay-Eiland, visit www.sharonseay-eiland.com/seeitministries.asp or phone (931) 393-8554.



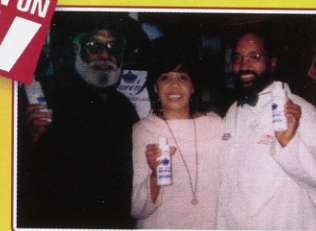
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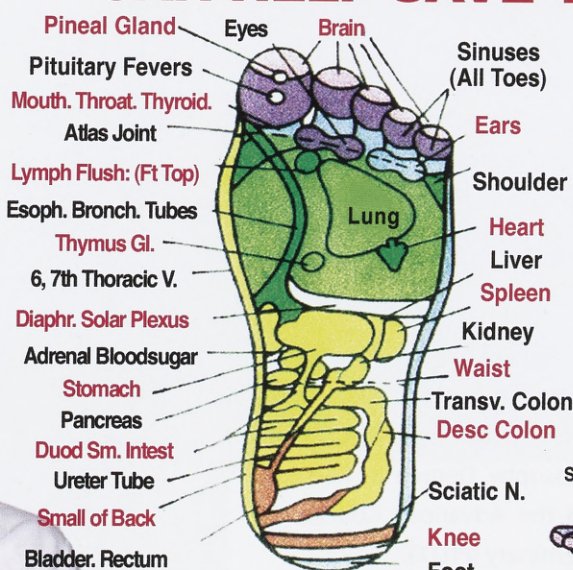
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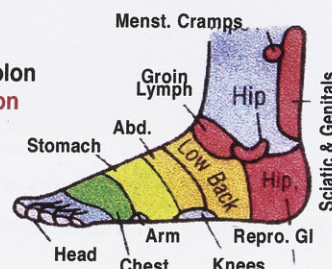
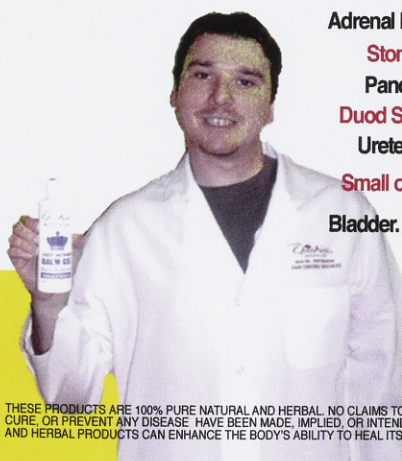
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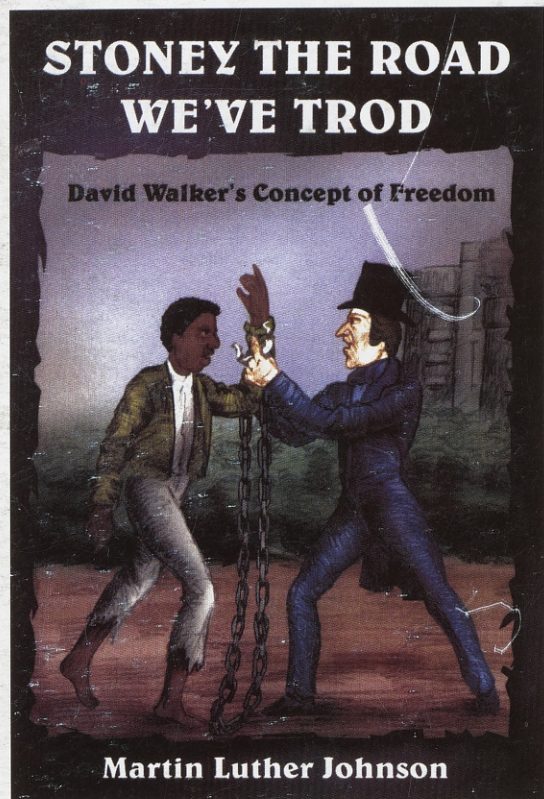
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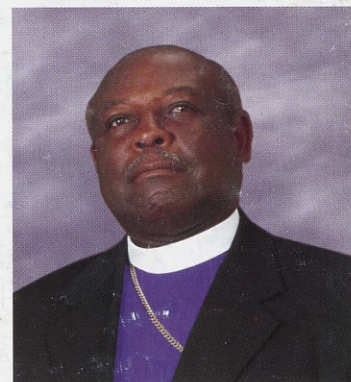
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Convinced that the final chapter about the life of David Walker had not been written, Dr. Johnson presents a constructive and provocative approach to the life and struggles of this man. His approach gets to the core of American racism and presents a challenge to future generations to pursue clarifications of, and answers to, the inconsistency between enslavement by white Americans and Christianity's message of Jesus Christ. Deeply rooted in this book is the urging to re-read Black history specifically, and American history in general, in an effort to arrive at a point of creative and positive dialogue. Because theological themes of racism, liberation, and social justice are pervading focusses of the work, one must get in touch with the Jesus of History in order to get a better grasp of the Christ of Faith. One must come to grips with who Jesus is and experience a deeper undergirding of the reality of Him in order to understand the meaning and purpose of total and complete liberation. Jesus Christ is tantamount to liberation and reconciliation of persons, but total reconciliation is predicated upon repentance of the persons, systems, and institutions responsible for the original alienation.



Bishop Martin Luther Johnson

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Martin Luther Johnson is the Jurisdictional Prelate of the First Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction, Church of God In Christ, New Jersey, and a retired Colonel from the United States Army. He is a graduate of Palm Beach Atlantic University; The Interdenominational Theological Center; The University of Central Texas; New York University, where he completed the Education (ABD) Command and G

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